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Washtenaw Jewish News
2939 Birch Hollow Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

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WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

NOVEMBER 2024 Tishrei/Cheshvan 5785 Volume XXV Number 2 FREE

Rabbi Richard Address at TBE for special Shabbaton

By Rabbi Chelsea Feuchs

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE) is thrilled to welcome Rabbi Richard Address as a scholar-in-residence to share his spiritual and celebratory approach to the aging process. Rabbi Address, a leading voice on aging in the Jewish world, will be teaching throughout November 15 and 16, in what promises to be an engaging Shabbaton. Friday evening services and Saturday programming are open not just to TBE members, but to the entire Washtenaw Jewish community.

Rabbi Address is the Founder and Director of www.jewishsacredaging.com. He is also the host of the weekly podcast Seekers of Meaning, on which he interviews experts about a variety of topics that specifically impact seniors and their loved ones. In a culture that often denies aging, or else sidelines those who show signs of getting older, Rabbi Address champions a radically different approach. He speaks of aging as a process with many opportunities for celebration, describing this time as the harvest stage of life. As we age, we deserve to reap the benefits of prior years of hard work, while remaining actively engaged with the people, places, and institutions we love.

Rabbi Address will deliver remarks at

Friday evening services at TBE, focusing on the values that should inform a Jewish approach to the later chapters of life. On Saturday morning, he will reflect on the Torah portion, which includes complicated scenes of caregiving and rivalry between adult children. Later in the day, Rabbi Address will explore rituals that can help bring a sense of intention and sacredness to different steps in the aging process. Those steps are as varied as accepting a new diagnosis, removing a wedding ring after a period of mourning, cohabitation without marriage, and uplifting the wisdom that comes from a lifetime of experience.

Many years ago, Rabbi Address visited TBE and helped to inspire Caring Community, a program in which members support each other with meals during times of hardship or transition, as well as rides to worship services. Since shifting his focus to senior life, Rabbi Address has once again inspired a new initiative at TBE. The Sacred Aging Institute (SAI) launched this fall, bringing spiritual and educational opportunities for those who identify as seniors in the community. So far, SAI has run lay-led workshops on ethical wills, Mussar, and poetry as a source of solace. In addition, SAI leaders Cantor Annie Rose and Rabbi Chelsea Feuchs have held discussion groups based on Rabbi Address's podcast to help familiarize the congregation with his wonderful work. SAI is proud to bring Rabbi Address back to the community to share his unique vision, and to inspire more people to become thoughtfully engaged in this important stage of life.

Anyone and everyone in the Washtenaw Jewish community is warmly encouraged to register for and attend the Shabbaton November 15–16. Please check out this event with Rabbi Address, as well as the work of SAI more generally, on the TBE website. If you have any questions or need any help with registration, please be in touch with Rabbi Chelsea at rabbifeuchs@templebethemeth.org ■

Washtenaw's Jewish People of Color Network growing

By Deborah Meyers Greene

The Jewish People of Color Network of Greater Ann Arbor — aka The Network — is an open resource for Jews who consider themselves a Person of Color. In a little over a year since its inception, The Network has quadrupled in number of individual participants and, predictably, the interests of those participants are multiplying at about the same pace.

The Network's next event is an afternoon with Jewish Poets of Color Zilka Joseph and Isaac Pickell — one Bene Israel, the other African American, and, of course, Jewish. They will share their work and their experiences as Jewish poets of color, all accompanied by light refreshments. What more does one need for an engaging and enjoyable late-autumn afternoon? All Jewish People of Color and allies are invited, Sunday, November 3, 12:30–2 p.m. Register at greenedm@umich.edu for the event location.

Isaac Pickell

Zilka Joseph

Through a new collaboration with the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, the Network is joining select JCC BookFest events, including the upcoming discussion between *Israel's Black Panthers* author Asaf Elia-Shalev and Bryan Roby, U-M Associate Professor and Network participant. On Friday, November 8, at 12 p.m. they will discuss via Zoom the story of the young and impoverished Moroccan Israeli Jews who challenged Israel's political status quo, rebelled against the then-existing ethnic hierarchy of Israeli life, and won equal standing for Israel's Mizrahim. Registration required: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3Eq-vVS-0RbWnYbeUTzYxeg#/registration.

In October, the JPOC Network's record-breaking 9 City Sukkah Hop brought together Jews of Color from Ann Arbor, Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago, Cincinnati, Columbus, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, and Omaha via livestream. The Hop was co-sponsored and hosted by JCCs at their sukkahs' locations and staged in collaboration with EDOT: The Midwest Regional Jewish Diversity and Racial Justice Collaborative.

Previously in the JCC BookFest collaboration, the Network co-sponsored the appearance of U-M Professor (and Network participant) Ruth Behar, who delivered keynote remarks and discussed her most recent book, *Across So Many Seas*, at the BookFest sponsors' event and opening night.

Every Jewish person who considers themselves a Person of Color is invited to the JPOC Network. Please write to greenedm@umich.edu or visit the Network website, https://jewsofcolorwashtenaw.org/ for additional information. ■

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From the editor

Our layered identities

Cheshvan is a month of Jewish rest. No special holidays in addition to Shabbat. In Michigan, a month of raking leaves and stocking up on books and ice-melt, at least in a normal year. As I write this, of course I am looking at Tuesday November 5 with anxious uncertainty. On October 27, the Republican presidential candidate hosted his 2024 version of a fascist rally at Madison Square Garden. The ADL ignored it, no comment whatsoever.

Whatever the outcome of the 2024 Presidential election, our relationships with each "identity-layered, hurting, human being" will have to get us through. The quote is from a Facebook post by Rami Avraham Efal, who I don't know, but whose words helped me nonetheless.

My thoughts are somehow given depth by local Jewish and Black poet Isaac Pickell (see story on front page). This is the title poem from his 2023 collection, available at https://www.blackocean.org/catalog1/its-not-over.■

Isaac Pickell
It's not over once you figure it out

I've always been drawn to the aging process of our immobile
Objects & the stories behind them, like a still locomotive
Corroding where we left it, like fences growing into trees.
I like to think our things are travelers that precede and then
Follow us, getting lost and found and in between finding
Deep dark places no one cares or dares to look. A truth
Uncovered by its permanence. I wonder, if we become things,
What do we find? Maybe our future will be settled in the Rust
Belt, as if that could be a place and not a description, as if
Immobile objects age or die or have stories we did not write
Ourselves. But this is just a poem, where you are allowed
To write literally whatever you want to: like how this is not settling
Anything at all, like how our dreams can do better than doubt,
Which is not growth, like how self-awareness is no finish line.

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Circulation: 4,500
Subscriptions:
Free inside Washtenaw County
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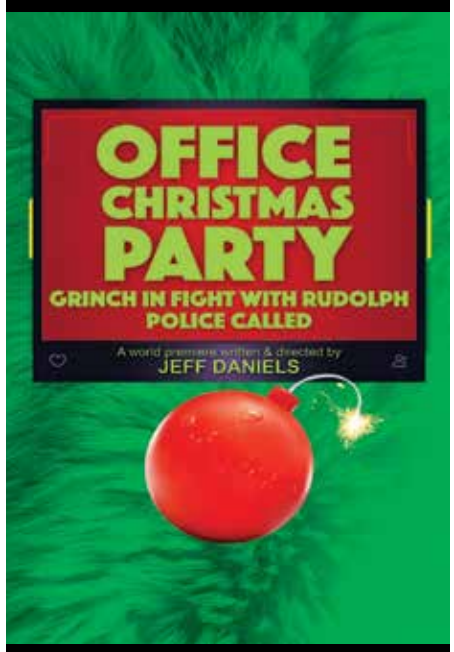

An office Christmas party goes wrong when two employees dressed as The Grinch Who Stole Christmas and Rudolph, The Red Nosed Reindeer disagree over where to clap along on "Silent Night". When a video of this non-brawl goes viral, the Internet offers our two non-violent co-workers $100,000 to stage a live stream Winner Take All Rematch between these two beloved Christmas characters.

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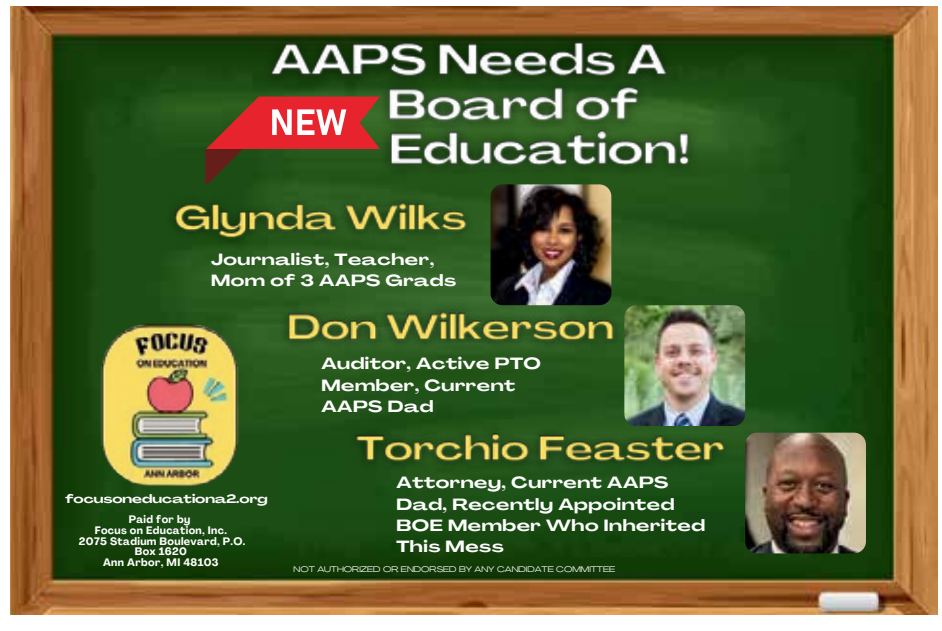

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Country Valley Farm is a certified organic local farm share.
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My legacy giving journey

By Greg Gafni-Pappas

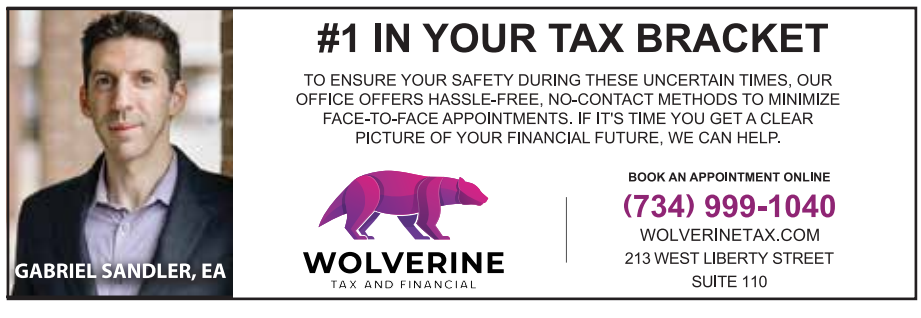
Legacy giving has become a meaningful part of my life, and it's a journey I want to share with my fellow members of the Ann Arbor Jewish Community. The idea of legacy giving may sound daunting, but I have found it to be one of the most fulfilling decisions I have made. It has allowed me to contribute to organizations that are important to me and my family in an impactful way.

As I considered my own legacy, I reflected on the impact our community has had on me and my family. I think of the friendships we've built, and the memories we've created. Our community has been a source of strength and belonging, and it is important to me to help sustain it for future generations. I realized that legacy giving is not just about leaving behind a financial contribution; it's about preserving values and traditions for those who come after me.

Many people in our community are aware of legacy giving but may hesitate to take that first step. Maybe you feel too young, or you're not sure of the best way to give. I was once in that position, unsure of how to navigate the process. However, I discovered that it can be as simple as designating an organization as a beneficiary of my 401(k). It didn't take a complete rewrite of my will, or the expense of a lawyer. I logged into my 401(k) account, added an organization as a beneficiary, and then sent the organization an email to let them know. My gift is structured as a percentage of my retirement savings, allowing it to grow over time while ensuring that my loved ones still receive the majority of my estate. This simple act allowed me to invest in the future of institutions important to my family without a burden on my current finances and I feel proud knowing that my contribution will make a lasting impact on our community.

One institution that has been particularly important to me is the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. This milestone provides a reminder of the vital role education plays in shaping the Jewish identities of entire generations. The Hebrew Day School has not only educated my children but it has also fostered a sense of community for my family, reminding us of the values and traditions that bind us. My legacy gift to the Hebrew Day School feels like a way to honor the educators who have shaped my children's lives and to ensure that future students have the same opportunity to learn and grow.

Imagine the possibilities if more members of our community engaged in legacy giving. We already have a vibrant community filled with enriching educational programs, expansive outreach initiatives, and cultural experiences that connect us all. Each legacy gift, no matter how modest, contributes to a powerful collective impact, ensuring the community that we've built will remain. I envision a future where our community continues to thrive and provide a deep connection to our heritage that has been a cornerstone of my own family's journey. ■



Detroit Jewish Fertility Foundation launches

From JFF press release

Nearly 100 people gathered to learn about and celebrate the launch of the Jewish Fertility Foundation's (JFF) Detroit office at their Kickoff Event on Thursday, September 5. Launched in March, JFF-Detroit has been providing financial assistance, emotional support, and educational programming to those experiencing infertility. JFF is a national nonprofit founded in 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia, with nine total locations.

The evening's program included light bites and beverages, frozen treats, and door prizes, as well as informal speeches given by JFF-Detroit Manager Carly Eisen, JFF-Detroit Advisory Council Chair Danielle Gordon, JFF-Detroit Advisory Council Member and National Board Member Joanne Aronovitz, and JFF Director of Development Jenny Jones. In addition, Rabbi Bentzi Geisinsky of Chabad of Bingham Farms shared comforting motifs of infertility within the Torah and offered words and prayers of healing.

Eisen remarked, "There are individuals and couples in our communities who are struggling to build their families. JFF hopes to destigmatize infertility and allow those going through it to find the support they need by providing direct Jewish community-based services." JFF's mission is to alleviate the financial strain of assisted reproductive technologies through grants, provide emotional support by way of support groups and a peer-to-peer Fertility Buddy Program, and educate those experiencing fertility challenges and their loved ones.

Jones highlighted, "Thirty-one states do not require insurers to cover any portion of fertility treatments. When an IVF cycle costs an average of $20,000 in the U.S. (with no guarantee of success), many people sacrifice their future financial stability to pay for multiple rounds of IVF or give up hope of conceiving, as the costs are simply too high." To date, JFF-Detroit has awarded five grants totaling $33,000 towards fertility treatment, has made five local Fertility Buddy matches, and has hosted three infertility support groups for women in Metro Detroit.

For more information about the Jewish Fertility Foundation or to find out how you can contribute to this important cause, please visit jewishfertilityfoundation.org or email carly@jewishfertilityfoundation.org. .■

The Guild of Artists & Artisans announces Grand Masquerade

From Guild of Artists and Artisans press release

The Guild of Artists & Artisans, producers of the Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair, The Gutman Gallery, and eight more regional fine art fairs, are hosting their second annual fundraiser event on November 9 from 7 to 11 p.m. This extraordinary evening will include Ann Arbor Distilling Company (A2DC) cocktails, beer and wine, heavy hors d'oeuvres, raffle prizes, a silent auction with phenomenal art and experiences to bid on, hands-on art making activities, and so much more, all to be enjoyed from behind a mask! The event will be held at Cahoots, located at 206 E Huron St.

While supporting The Guild's mission, your ticket to the event also includes one complimentary alcoholic beverage, and heavy hors d'oeuvres highlighting popular Washtenaw County restaurants, including a selection of seafood from Monahan's, charcuterie boards from York, and a Mediterranean sampling from Oasis Grill, to name a few. There will also be a cash bar that will feature delicious craft cocktails from the Ann Arbor Distilling Company — including a special signature cocktail for the event — as well as wine and beer. There will be two art-making activities for attendees: a complimentary mask making station, and a printmaking activity led by local artist Amanda Moore available with a $5 donation. Ann Arbor artist Andrea Lozano will be offering quick sketches for a $5 donation as well. There will also be live music throughout the evening, including a performance by Ann Arbor band Ain't Dead Yet.

The fun starts even before the event date! Each ticket includes access to the silent auction which will open one week prior to the event so attendees can browse, place bids on, and purchase items in advance of the festivities. Ticket holders also will have complimentary access for a Gutman Gallery mask-making workshop at A2 Artoberfest, October 12 and 13 from 12–4 p.m. each day. Workshop participants can design and decorate their very own masks using provided materials including paper mâché, paint, glitter, fabric, beads and more. There will also be handmade masks created by The Guild's members available for purchase at the Gutman Gallery leading up to the event.

For more information, visit: TheGuild.org or our Facebook event page.

Follow The Guild and the Gutman Gallery on social media: @guildfairs and @gutmangallery on Facebook and Instagram..■

TBE events in November

Events and services are both in person and/or virtual. Please see www.templebethemeth.org for full details, location information, and links.

NEW: Sacred Aging Institute (SAI) is a series of programs and opportunities for shared study, meaningful discussion, and creative exploration. SAI is meant to foster connection, growth, and mutual support for older adults as we create a sacred community within our larger TBE family.

Tot Shabbat Service & Dinner
Fridays at 5:45 p.m.
Join the Clergy to celebrate Shabbat with fun activities, stories, songs, and age-appropriate learning for children ages 0–5. Registration requested

Wine & Cheese Shabbat Reception
Fridays at 6 p.m. (except the second Friday of each month)

Shabbat Service
Fridays at 6:30 p.m.
Every 2nd Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday Shabbat service
Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Weekday morning blessings
Weekdays at 9:15 a.m.
Join Rabbi Whinston each weekday morning for a short service of song, poetry, and meditation.

Twenty-five-minute mindfulness with Jewish spiritual director Linda Greene
Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Zoom room opens at 8:15 a.m. for optional check-in. Blessing and intention setting 8:30–8:35 a.m. Meditate 8:35–9 a.m. Start your day centered and connected.

Queer Torah Study
Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
Join us in person or via Zoom for a discussion of queer themes in the weekly Torah portion! Led by Ari Marcotte & Ari Smith. Guest leaders welcome! Contact Ari M (ari.j.marcotte@gmail.com) for more information.

Back Door Food Pantry
Thursdays, 4–7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner
Thursdays at 5 p.m.
Join Claire Weiner for a 40-minute meditation session.

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Whinston
Fridays at 12 p.m.
Bring your lunch and learn with Rabbi Whinston during this informal and social gathering. We explore different ideas throughout the year with participants guiding our subjects.

Shabbat morning Torah study
Saturdays at 8:50 a.m.
Join us for this weekly discussion of the Torah portion.
Weekly Mahj
Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

SAI: Listening and Learning: A Discussion Group based on Rabbi Address's Sacred Aging Podcast with Rabbi Chelsea
Sunday, November 3, 4:30 p.m.

Women in Tanach
Monday, November 4, 12 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

SAI: Mussar Group
Tuesday, November 5, 1:15 p.m.
Tuesday, November 19, 1:15 p.m.

Book Club
Thursday, November 7, 11 a.m.

SAI: Listening and Learning: A Discussion Group based on Rabbi Address's Sacred Aging Podcast with Cantor Emerita Annie Rose
Thursday, November 7, 12 p.m.

SAI: Poetry as Solace
Thursday, November 7, 7 p.m.
Thursday, November 14, 7 p.m.
Thursday, November 21, 7 p.m.

Introduction to Judaism with Rabbi Whinston
Thursday, November 7, 7 p.m.
Thursday, November 14, 7 p.m.

Elementary Shabbat
Friday, November 8, 5:45 p.m.

Family Camp
Friday, November 8, 6:45 p.m.
Family Camp provides an opportunity for families to play and learn together, for students to reinforce and share some of what they are learning in the classroom, and most importantly to strengthen ties among students and parents/caretakers.

Plant Forward Potluck
Sunday, November 10, 1 p.m.

Women in Tanach
Monday, November 11, 12 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Monday, November 18, 12 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Monday, November 25, 12 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

WTBE Historical Novel Reading Group
Monday, November 11, 12:30 p.m.

WTBE Fiber Arts
Monday, November 11, 12:30 p.m.

Jewish Book Club
Thursday, November 14, 11 a.m.

Brotherhood Guys' Night Out
Thursday, November 14, 6 p.m.

LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck
Friday, November 15, 5:30 p.m.
Join us for a Shabbat dinner and candle lighting with members of the local queer community! Bring a dish to share with others, make new friends, and let us know what you'd like to see in future queer programming!

Shabbat**on: Rabbi Richard Address Scholar in Residence**
Friday, November 15, 5:30 p.m.

Program with Rabbi Address Scholar in Residence
Saturday, November 16, 2 p.m.

Bereavement Group
Tuesday, November 19, 4 p.m.
The group will have opportunities to share openly about their process of grieving and will also have topic-based readings to spark discussion.

Jewish Book Club
Thursday, November 21, 11 a.m.

Erev Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 24, 7:30 p.m.. ■

Commemorating October 7 in Ann Arbor

By Amichay Findling, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

Shortly after I arrived in Ann Arbor from Israel with my family in August 2023, the Jewish world changed, as did my work as a community Shaliach (emissary). I came to Ann Arbor expecting to work on connecting the local Jewish community with Israel, especially with the beauty of Israeli arts and of the Hebrew language, but the disaster of October 7 and the following war left us needing to provide for the most basic needs of many Jews in Israel. These basic needs have included safe shelter, warm food, a bed for the night, a classroom and a teacher for the kids, employment for the adults, and mental well-being for everyone. We have also been concerned with Israeli citizens wondering whether their friends and family are safe, or, God forbid, knowing that they are dead and respectfully buried.

Kinneret Weiss viewing a visual art exhibit at the JCC on October 6.

The emphasis on caring for all these basic needs pushed "the beauty of art" far away.

Jews in Israel and around the world were reminded of their unbreakable bonds to one another by the most horrific disaster, and, at least temporarily, laid aside their previous fights and quarrels, rising to the occasion. Those who could rushed to put on their uniforms and put up a fight. Others volunteered to provide survivors, evacuees, and soldiers with their most basic needs. Still others, like many of us here in Ann Arbor, supported those efforts with generous donations, service, solidarity visits to Israel, and public advocacy for Israel's struggle. We did that while combating rising antisemitic rhetoric and actions here in the U.S.

But none of us believed that we would commemorate a year of those events while the events still unfold; while hostages are still being kept in Gaza, while tens of thousands of Israelis are still away from their homes, and while IDF soldiers still fight against Israel's enemies along and beyond the borders. We didn't anticipate that the same day we commemorated these events, antisemites would graffiti Jewish buildings in Metro Detroit and pro-Palestinian students would still be spreading lies about Israel on the U of M campus.

Yet, we felt urged to commemorate, even under the shadow of still unfolding events. Even though we do not yet know how it will end, we are all in need of reflecting on and analyzing our emotions over the past difficult year. Many of us felt the urge to get together, and fortunately many Ann Arbor Jewish community organizations came together to provide us these opportunities.

The Oct. 6 "Reflections" exhibition at the JCC of Greater Ann Arbor gave participants and visitors an outstanding opportunity to reflect, discuss, and commemorate together. More than 20 local and nationally recognized artists showed their work, spanning a variety of artistic styles. In addition to indoor presentations, an outdoor exhibit visible to passersby displayed visual art, and one room inside the JCC transformed into a movie theater presenting documentary films created about October 7. Even the JCC's gym was in use as the center for performance arts and in-person engagements.

Marie Aiudi Pattipati, Director of Cultural Arts and Education at the JCC, and an artist herself, curated and organized the exhibit. "With this exhibit," Pattipati says, "we aimed to commemorate the ongoing horrors in Israel and reflect on pain, resilience, and hope for the future." Pattipati was inspired in part by the creation of her own experiential art piece as a graduate student at UM last year, a piece which highlighted the denial of sexual violence and the horrors experienced by victims of the Hamas attack. The piece was heavily censored on campus but has since found an audience in Jewish spaces.

For some of the artists featured on October 6, the pain of the year's events in Israel is deepened by experiences much closer to home. Evgenia Gazman, one such artist, commented on what motivated her to present at this exhibition. "It was deeply meaningful for me to be part of the October 7 commemorative event at the J in Ann Arbor," she said. "My initial connection to the J formed at Sam Woll's celebration of life event in January 2024 at Cadieux Stage in Detroit. Much of my grief and creative expression post-October 7 is deeply intertwined with the loss of Sam on October 21 just two weeks later," Gazman reflects, commenting on the shocking murder of the Jewish Detroit luminary, who had family ties in Ann Arbor.

"Art is deeply spiritual for me," Gazman says. "I joke it's how HaShem and I hang out."

Personally, the exhibition reminded me that the beauty of art is an important educational, therapeutic, and communal power in dire situations as well as in times of peace and prosperity.

The peak of the exhibitions and activities day was a presentation and testimony by two Israelis — Shay Raz and Noa Reuveni — who came to Ann Arbor to share their experiences of October 7. Shay, an elite unit reservist, rallied his comrades without receiving any order from above and rushed south on the morning of the attack to rescue a friend living in one of the attacked kibbutzim. He kept on fighting for many more months after that day. Noa, a resident of a Gaza envelope kibbutz, happened to be on a trip abroad on October 7. Her best friend was Ziv Berman, a resident of Kibbutz Kfar Aza. From the moment of the attack, Noa was in constant contact with Ziv via messaging until he stopped replying. Noa did the unbelievable and found a flight back to Israel within days, taking her car and driving south by herself to look for her family and best friend. She found her family in safety but learned that her best friend had been kidnapped by Hamas. From this moment on, she split her time between two duties: military reserve duty for the war, and her duty to her best friend Ziv, visiting Tel Aviv's Hostages' Square every free moment she had and advocating for the hostages.

Being experienced public speakers, both Shay and Noa have spent the last few months dedicating themselves to advocating for the hostages, traveling the world to engage Jewish communities and decision makers.

Along with Shay and Noa, Ann Arbor's own ShinShinit, Danielle, shared the story of Noa Price, a victim of October 7 who was murdered by Hamas terrorists on her military base when she was unarmed and could not fight back. Noa was the cousin of Danielle's best friend.

Israel is a small country, and there's no one who's left unscarred from this day, no one who doesn't know someone killed or kidnapped on that horrible day. So many of us here in Ann Arbor have connections with Israeli friends and family, so many of us are scarred ourselves.

As the exhibition day ended, a group of U of M students arrived at the JCC to move many of the installations to their next important destination: the University of Michigan Diag. The University's main square was booked in advance by Hillel students for an entire day of activities commemorating October 7. The events included a day-long art exhibition open to the public and visible to passersby, turning the Diag into our own Hostages' Square for a day. At the end of the day came an evening vigil that brought together the campus and broader Ann Arbor area Jewish communities. Following the vigil, to allow for a more intimate and protected space for the students, Hillel held a commemoration dinner at the Michigan League, hosting Shay and Noa, who presented their testimonies to the crowd of students.

Mizmoret, an orchestra from Temple Beth Emeth, performed in the JCC as part of the "Reflections" program at the JCC

Allison Bloomberg, Michigan Hillel's Israel Engagement Manager, was instrumental in organizing the open exhibition on the Diag and commented on the day's events: "The all-day memorial on the Diag was spearheaded by Michigan Hillel staff, student leaders, and Wolverines for Israel, a Michigan Hillel-sponsored pro-Israel student group on campus. With the additional support of student leaders who work closely with Chabad and the Jewish Resource Center, the team was able to divide and conquer to create exhibits that tried to encompass what this past year has looked like and felt like for students and their peers. We were also grateful to collaborate with additional student groups, including Students Supporting Israel and J Street U, another Hillel-sponsored student group who defines themselves as 'Pro-Israel, Pro-Palestine, Pro-Peace.' With the support of about 60 students, we were able to display handmade artwork, installations, and opportunities for action to support families in Israel all day long."

The U of M's Hostages' Square contained an empty dining table indicating the wait for the hostages to come back, big posters and other prints showing the horrible outcomes of the October 7 attack, various art exhibitions reacting to and reflecting on the disaster, and giant milk cartons with pictures of American hostages. Over the course of the day, thousands of people walked by the exhibition and engaged with it in various ways.

Facing this somber, peaceful, and respectful commemoration were a handful of anti-Israel, "Pro-Palestinian" demonstrators who gathered during the early evening and attempted to interrupt the commemoration events in several ways, including allegedly attacking campus police officers, who, like always, maintained the peace and the right of Jewish students and community members to gather and speak out.

The community vigil on the Diag attracted hundreds of participants from across campus and the broader community alike. Student and community leaders shared their thoughts on the impacts of October 7 on Israel and the United States and prayed for the hostages, the dead, those who fight, and those unfortunate people caught in the crossfire. Eileen Freed, the CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, reminded the crowd that the war is still being fought, and many still suffer, even though a whole year has passed since the initial attack: "Since October 8, the north of Israel has been under daily rocket fire from Hezbollah, making cities and communities unlivable. More than 60,000 Israelis are living as refugees in their own country. One hundred and one hostages remain in Hamas captivity … All the while, innocent civilians in Gaza and Lebanon are caught in the crossfire as they are used like human shields by terrorist organizations … These continued horrors can often feel paralyzing; we don't know what's to come."

Ryan Silberfein, President of Michigan Hillel, commented after the vigil's end: "Yesterday was a tremendously difficult day for Jewish people across the world, so we took it upon ourselves to create a space to be with community, mourn, hear stories, and share prayers with one another. This was not an easy task, with many hours of planning over Zoom and changing the script over and over to make sure it was as meaningful as possible, in addition to Rosh Hashanah just a few days before the event. Leading the vigil and the planning process was so powerful to me and I am even more grateful that it had such a positive impact on the greater community as well."

To echo Ryan's words, it was a difficult day amid a difficult period that concluded a difficult year for me, as an Israeli living in Ann Arbor, and surely for any Jew in our community. The commemoration events gave us the opportunity to gather in a meaningful way as a community, mourn, reflect, and hope together. I surely needed that.

The October 7 commemorations were supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor Engagement Fund, as well as by grants from the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). To connect with future Israel-related activities, contact amichay@jewishannarbor.org.■

Art and remembrance of October 7

By Clare Kinberg

As an introduction to the "Year of Remembrance through Art" exhibit, organizer Marie Pattipati, Director of Cultural Arts and Education at the Jewish Community Center of Ann Arbor, wrote, "A year ago, the world witnessed the horrific attacks on Israeli civilians by Hamas on October 7, 2023. Since then, a devastating war has raged, while over a hundred hostages remain captive and subjected to torture in Gaza. As we mark this somber anniversary, the JCC of Greater Ann Arbor, in partnership with the Jewish Federation and University of Michigan Hillel, invites the community to come together in remembrance through creative expression."

The call to commemorate the losses of October 7 and the ensuing war through creative expression — visual art and poetry — was bold and welcome. Creative expression invites the creator and the viewer to engage below the surface, to reach interior regions. The art exhibits, the poetry, and the song circle offered commemorative modalities that affect creators and audiences in mysterious, perhaps spiritual, potentially heart-opening ways.

When I initially read Marie Pattipati's call for art submissions to commemorate October 7, I was concerned that depictions of the massacres of Israelis at the Nova concert and in their kibbutzim, created with despair and rage, would deepen rage and despair in the viewer. I have concerns about these feelings leading to justification for the year of war on Gaza and to a looking away from the suffering of Palestinians — the enemy — during wartime.

On the other hand, I hoped the exhibits bringing diverse creators together focusing on October 7 and the war might result in an uncomfortable but necessary cacophony of emotions, unexpected coming togethers, resulting in openings to imagine a future beyond the present war.

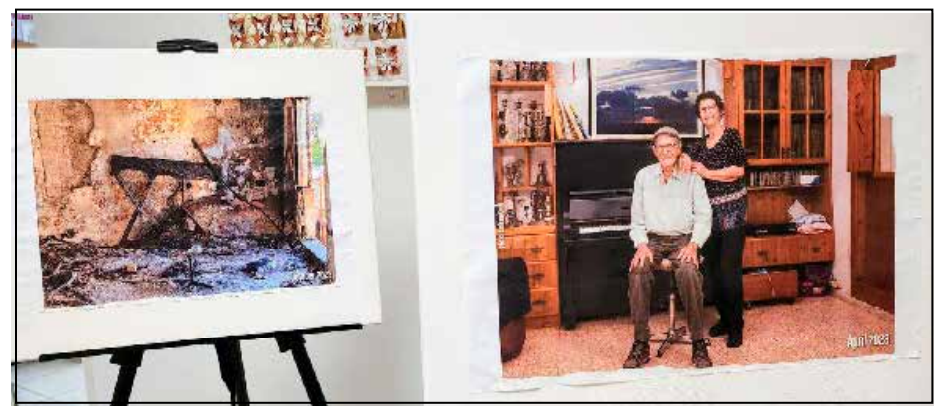
Outside the JCC on October 6

Some of the displays of hostages on milk cartons and artifacts reminding us of the murdered children do indeed induce in me rage and despair. Especially moving to me are the before and after photos, from "Captured Echoes of Silence: Recreating Family Photos." Eileen Freed submitted these to the exhibit on behalf of the Israeli creators from the website: https://capturedoct7.bringthemhomenow.net/.

> The "Captured" initiative, advocating for the return of Israeli hostages, was launched by Sharon Derhy, the daughter-in-law of Chaim Peri, who was abducted on October 7 by Hamas from his home in Israel. The initiative emerged when Derhy's husband, Lior, visited his father's home in Kibbutz Nir-Oz and recalled a photo taken there a year earlier. Derhy collaborated with the Hostages and Missing Family Forum to lead the recreation of more family album photos where hostages are absent.

For me, these photos induced neither rage nor despair, but rather a more generative grief, by which I mean, grief for Israeli loss that makes me feel I want to stop this loss and pain for both Israelis and Palestinians.

These works looking directly at the violence perpetrated on October 7 demand our attention. Yet, I hold on to fear that displays limited to rage, grief, and despair for the Israeli casualties will inspire commitment to military solutions that cannot work to bring peace. And further, I don't know how this all ends unless empathy is also felt for Palestinian victims of the war. None of the visual art focused the viewers' attention on Palestinian suffering during the war; even so, the work, taken together, created new opportunities, not the least of which were conversations among creators with varying perspectives.



Yocheved and Oded Lifshitz (83) were abducted by Hamas from their home in the Kibbutz. Oded is still held hostage in Gaza. Yocheved was released after 17

The work of guest artist Devon Spier created many opportunities for such discussion. A series of enigmatic, curious, and unexpected statements and questions were starkly painted on small canvases in black and white. Following the exhibit, I asked Devon about her experience at the Ann Arbor event and about the title of the work, "18 plus one." Devon replied:

> In my experience, and life path, no one can attempt the work of peace or ending violence and killing without, at a pivotal level, being acknowledged and knowing that they can be safe and will be safe with the other. Because out of the calamity of October 7, Jewish people want to talk. And especially, be compassionately listened to. And so, what occurs to me about this exhibit and the response to it is there are many Jewish stories just starting to be told, and many that haven't been given space in the Jewish communal sphere to be told.
>
> As an artist, I believe that grasping the impact of Jewish people on the life of the world, including Palestinian, Lebanese, Arab neighbors, and total strangers, begins in this place. Belonging. Being invited. And there, encountering different ideas and questions and unknowings that give us passages into other, including vital "not Jewish" worlds. That's the beauty of 18 plus one. It is an anchor of consolation and conversation, turning the curses to blessings in an imagined but arriving world, where we remember, lift up, and recognize the sacredness of every human being's life and names.

Extending her reflections, Devon also sent me this bit of Torah, fitting for an emotion-laden exhibit during the Days of Awe between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

> There is an illuminating set of disputations in Rosh Hashanah 33b:9–10 regarding the meaning of the T'ruah blasts of the shofar. One sage holds that the sound is that of long broken sighs and moaning. And another holds that the short blasts are whimpers. And the sages go further in specifying the types of cries of the shofar, citing the cries of the mother of Sisera, an enemy of the Jewish People, as source material on the mitzvah of shofar. That our sages tie the action of how to live a Jewish life in the world through Shofar to an enemy and their mother is telling; for if G-d can attune to the cries of the downtrodden, beyond boundaries of politics and killing, our human geographies, then so must we. And so, it is the duty of human beings to find other human beings in the midst of conflict, small sobs and wailing. We must, despite every hardship and hardened chamber of our hearts, find our ways back to each other.

From Devon Spier, "18 plus one

With Devon's thoughts in mind about deeply listening to Jewish stories creating openings to other stories, I viewed the ceramic art at the exhibit as offering necessary personal stories of the ways October 7 and a year of the Israel-Hamas war have been experienced by Jews in Ann Arbor.

High school student Mollie Meadow submitted this thoughtful, heartfelt, and heartbreaking statement with her ceramic art work:

> Adversity often brings us to reflection on what is most important. This year has been a big reflection time for me. I bring a lot of my thoughts to life through my art. This past year at school, somehow being Jewish felt like something that set me apart from other students, which was a new experience for me. There was a lot of tension around the war at school. I made this set of bowls while working in that school environment and meditating on current events. This set is a celebration of some aspects of my life as a Jew and some of the things I love from my childhood.

continued on page 7

Art commenoration at JCC continue from pg 6

Mollie Meadow ceramics

Lucinda Kurz and Oran Hesterman's cramic work included this statement and poem:

> The night of Oct 8, 2023, I dreamt that I was invited by two beloved Rabbis and teachers (blessed be their memories) to assist them in accompanying the souls of those murdered on October 7 on their journey across the veil. I awoke the next morning and started working on this series of ceramic pieces titled "Souls Ascending." When someone dies suddenly and unexpectedly, their soul may become confused about how to make its way back to the light. May the souls of those murdered on Oct 7 find their way back to the Source.
> — Oran B. Hesterman

Lucinda Kurtz
Souls Ascending

In my fitful sleep
they whisper guidance,
"Help the souls ascend."

Babes slaughtered in their cribs
Elders cut down
Books in hand
Reading poetry of peace
Mothers feeding toddlers
Laughing dancers celebrating life.

In my fitful sleep
they whisper guidance,
"Help the souls ascend."

All these souls
Cut
Torn
Ripped
From their brave bodies.
Their beating hearts
Split
Cracked
Broken.

In my fitful sleep
they whisper guidance,
"Help the souls ascend."

"Guide them Home"
instruct my beloved rebbes.
Help them find the way
to Source.

In my fitful sleep
I help the souls ascend.

Oran B. Hesterman and Lucinda Kurtz, "Souls Ascending" ceramic vases.

While the words describing Oren and Lucinda's ceramic vases speak specifically of those murdered on October 7, the ethereal "souls" rising on the vases do not have an ethnicity carved into them. They become universal. I feel a connection between "Souls Ascending" and the art making workshop, "Waking Us Up to Truah: Brokenness with Compassion," led by Idelle Hammond-Sass and Rabbi Gabrielle Pescador. Idelle and Rabbi Gabrielle included a poem based on a line from Lamentations to set the intention for art making. They wanted to gently increase capacity to feel grief for both Israelis and Palestinians, acknowledging the potential to cause internal conflict within each individual Jew and also between Jews.

No Pain Like Our Pain
by Rabbi Tamara Cohen

"Look carefully and see if there could possibly be pain like my pain, like the one bestowed by You upon me." — Lamentations 1:12

Dear God, help us look, look closer so that we may see our children in their children, their children in our own.

Help us look so that we may see You — in the bleary eyes of each orphan, each grieving childless mother, each masked and camouflaged fighter for his people's dignity.

Dear God, Divine Exiled and Crying One, Loosen our claim to our own uniqueness. Soften this hold on our exclusive right — to pain, to compassion, to justice.

May your children, all of us unique and in Your image, come to know the quiet truths of shared pain, shared hope, shared land, shared humanity, shared risk,

shared courage, shared peace. In Sh'Allah. Ken Yehi Ratzon. May it be Your will. And may it be ours.

Lauren Zinn's art is even more explicit in asking the viewer to move from the specific to the universal. Lauren's multilayered exhibit displayed her original paintings along with Israeli postage stamps collected by her father. Her work aims to encourage the viewer to use the past to imagine the future. "My collection of work challenges us to remember our old story, not to continue it, but to improve it. We need to remember the old story as a reminder for entering a new one, a new covenant, a new identity, a new narrative. This new story must embrace not only our God, not only our tribe, but also our wider world. Will we transcend our history and traditions — while including them — to evolve with each other and with others into an inter-spiritual future? These images-and-words encourage us to do so."

Lauren has been working on these paintings for many years. She took the opportunity to synthesize the work into an exhibit commemorating the October 7 attacks and the ensuing war.

From Lauren Zinn, "Belonging to the World." View the entire installation at https://www.zinnhouse.com/belong/

There were many other memorable pieces in the exhibit, which you can view online.

I was not able to attend the exhibition in person, and therefore I am very grateful that Marie Pattipati posted scores of photos of the art and of people viewing and discussing the work. Videos of the poetry readings, song circle, and other presentations are also available on the Facebook page.

Looking at the collection of work, available on Facebook at "Reflections: Commemorating One Year Since 10.7," I see a remarkable presentation that, taken together, begins the work of dislodging certainties and stuck emotions. The exhibit, as I was able to experience it online, returned me to faith that through art, poetry, and reflection, we can reach places of grief and compassion necessary to end the violence. ■

Grants and scholarships available for Jewish summer camp

By Rebecca Rich, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

According to the national Foundation for Jewish Camp, 97% of parents say that Jewish camp made their child proud to be Jewish. That's difficult to put a price on.

Unfortunately, summer camp does come at a price. That's why the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, in partnership with the national Foundation for Jewish Camp, is proud to offer the One Happy Camper program to the greater Ann Arbor community.

Jocelyn Rosenblum built confidence in a Jewish setting with some high stakes "hanging out" at camp GUCI.

One Happy Camper provides need-blind grants of up to $1,000 to families for children to attend Jewish overnight camp for the first time. After being given a chance to try camp with a lessened financial burden, 87% of campers return for a second summer.

"Our kids had a great first camp experience," says Ann Arbor parent Susan Ostreicher, whose kids attended the camp affectionately known as GUCI, this past summer. "They are still singing the songs and doing the cheers at home. We are very grateful to the Federation for helping to make this possible."

GUCI, a camp associated with the Reform Movement located in Indiana, is just one of the camps Ann Arbor area families attended with the help of One Happy Camper in summer 2024. Others include Camp Tavor, which builds connections with Israel through the Israeli Habonim Dror Youth Movement, and the Metro Detroit-based Camp Tamarack.

Another Ann Arbor parent, Karen Rappaport said that at Tamarack, her son Gil "loved everything about camp, is asking to go for longer and has started a countdown to next summer!"

At Jewish camp, children can experience a memorable summer infused with Jewish education, awareness, and identity. They try new activities and find the best versions of themselves. They play basketball, go sailing, practice art, and even explore special interests like science, entrepreneurship, or culinary arts — and while they're doing it, they make lifelong friends and build important life skills. At the end of the day, they get to sing songs, toast marshmallows, and make memories. When it's all done in a Jewish context, young people deepen their Jewish identity, which they carry with them their entire lives.

In addition to One Happy Camper, need-based scholarships are available to local families for Jewish day and overnight camps through a partnership between the Jewish Federation and Jewish Family Services. These scholarships help young people experience an even wider array of Jewish camps, including the Ann Arbor JCC's Camp Raanana, as well as the local Camp Gan Israel.

Gil Rappaport can't wait to get back to Camp Tamarack after his first experience was supported by One Happy Camper.

Melissa Rosenblum, another parent of a happy GUCI camper, recognizes that the funds that made it possible for her daughter Jocelyn to experience Jewish camp don't materialize out of thin air. They are from generous donors in the local Ann Arbor area Jewish community who recognize how important Jewish camp is.

"We are so grateful for the Federation's support so our daughter could attend GUCI overnight camp," Rosenblum says. "By far, some of her favorite things were making new friends, Israeli dancing, daily swimming, and crumb cake on Sundays!"

For more information about grant and scholarship applications, visit www.JewishAnnArbor.org/Engagement. To help change a young person's Jewish life with a financial contribution to Jewish camp scholarships and grants, contact Rachel Wall, Federation's Communications & Development Director, at rachel@jewishannarbor.org. ■

The two most important flags for liberal Jews today

By Alex Sinclair

This opinion piece was originally published as a blog in the Times of Israel on July 9, 2024, used with permission of TOI.

Take a look at this picture. Israel's government and Hamas don't agree on much, but they do agree on one thing: this picture is an abomination.

Bezalel Smotrich, Itamar Ben-Gvir, and their supporters believe that only one of these flags is legitimate. They claim that the other flag represents a "made-up people" who have no historical connection to the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, and their sworn public goal is to prevent that flag from ever flying over a sovereign state in that land. They strive to achieve that goal through the continuous building of Jewish settlements throughout the entire land.

Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif, and their supporters also believe that only one of these flags is legitimate. They claim that the other flag represents a "made-up people" who have no historical connection to the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, and their sworn public goal is to remove that flag which currently flies over a sovereign state in that land. They strive to achieve that goal through a campaign of never-ending terrorism against Israelis throughout the entire land.

I am certainly not suggesting that there is any moral equivalence between the *methods* of these two groups. Nevertheless, there are overwhelming similarities in the way each seeks to create a political and educational narrative that delegitimizes the flag, and therefore the history and national identity, of the other side.

Unfortunately, this mutual flag-delegitimization is not limited to the extremes of Palestinian or Israel society. The narrative of the extremist-messianic Israeli right has taken hold of mainstream Israeli society, to the extent that Ben-Gvir's police now confiscate Palestinian flags at demonstrations, and they are *de facto* banned from public spaces. Prime Minister Netanyahu has supported this ban, despite the fact that in the past he had no problem jovially shaking hands with Palestinian President Abbas right in front of the Palestinian flag.

We must not accept the wrongs done in our name by these religious extremist elements in Israeli society. Smotrich may not believe that the Palestinians are a people, but I do. As Yuval Noah Harari put it, at a recent peace demonstration, "We can argue when exactly the Jewish people and the Palestinian people emerged. But the important thing is that right now both are here." The Palestinians have a right to national self-determination, just as the Jews do, and the Palestinian flag is as much part of their national self-determination as the Israeli flag is for us.

In Israel, liberal Jews are entrenched in nothing less than a struggle for the soul of the Jewish people. This struggle includes matters of religion and state, the rights of non-Orthodox Jewish streams, the role of Charedi (Ultra-Orthodox) Jews in Israeli society and Jewish identity, the types of Jewish education that take place in the school system, and many other issues. The Palestinian flag is one of them. I appreciate that for some, it is an uncomfortable symbol; indeed, it is the symbol brandished by Hamas, by those who wish us dead and wish our country eliminated. But it is also the symbol of other Palestinians — many of whom have historically been willing to accept our national aspirations as long as their national aspirations are satisfied too. By portraying the Israeli flag and the Palestinian flag *together*, we show Hamas and other Palestinian terrorists that we will not give up our country and our national identity, but we show potential Palestinian partners that we accept their national identity and wish to live in security, mutual dignity, and peace with them. While that possibility seems far off today, the first step, as with all strategic planning, is to delineate the desired end goal, and that is what we must do.

In the Diaspora, we should also display the Israeli and Palestinian flags together, for slightly different reasons. The so-called progressive left has delegitimized Zionism entirely. The vision of the future that they seek to embed in the hearts and minds of young Americans, Canadians, and Brits is an either-or, zero-sum understanding of Israel and Palestine: their solution is removal of Israel and its replacement with Palestine. They may not use the same terrorist methods as Hamas, but their bottom line — a Middle East without Israel — is the same.

As Jews, we cannot accept the delegitimization, condemnation, and exclusion of Zionism and the Israeli flag from campuses, marches, and other public spaces. But we can't fight the progressive left by arguing that Israel has a right to exist, but Palestine doesn't. Nor should we: it's a morally untenable, historically absurd claim.

The only way to fight the progressive left is to brandish the flag of Israel and the flag of Palestine together. That has to be our message. It is the only way to claim the moral high ground and the only way to win over the sensible mainstream. Hillels, Jewish summer camps, synagogues, and all other Jewish organizations throughout the world should publicly display both flags at appropriate moments. We should proudly state that Israel has a right to exist (that's simply what Zionism means), *and* that we are also in favor of Palestinian nationalism, and we seek a future in which both of those national aspirations can coexist in security, mutual dignity, and peace.

Of course, this will not satisfy some on the progressive left. They will continue to deface the Israeli flag and delegitimize Zionism, just like Hamas. They will continue to spout nonsense about settler-colonialism. But most mainstream Americans, Canadians, and Brits will understand and support our position. If we present Zionism and Palestinian nationalism as a both-and proposition, rather than either-or, the vast majority will ally with us — in American, Canada, Britain, and also in the Middle East.

Displaying the Israeli and Palestinian flags together is the strategically smart thing to do. It's also the right thing to do. It will be a game-changer. Let's make it happen. ■

November events at Beth Israel

Everyone is welcome to join Beth Israel for services, classes, and events. Services are being held in person and virtually, unless otherwise noted on the calendar. Below is a list of the links to participate virtually in services at Beth Israel. Beth Israel is live streaming services on the Beth Israel YouTube channel (Beth Israel Congregation AA MI). All links are also available on the Beth Israel homepage (www.bethisrael-aa.org). Please note that passwords are used. Contact the office to get the passwords at office@bethisrael-aa.org.

Milka Ellav

Hebrew Language Classes at Beth Israel

Beginning Monday November 4 to February 10
Beginner Liturgical Hebrew at 6:30 p.m.
Intermediate Modern Hebrew at 7:30 p.m.

Beth Israel is pleased to offer two Hebrew language classes taught by Milka Eliav. Each class is 12 sessions long. Register on the Beth Israel website. $150 for members, $210 for non-members. Scholarships are available. Questions? Contact barb at barbm@bethisrael-aa.org.

Beginner Liturgical Hebrew is for Hebrew learners that have an understanding of how to decode letters, sounds, and can read short words in modern or liturgical Hebrew. This class will focus on reading the siddur and chumash. Students will received a complimentary copy of the Sim Shalom for study.

Intermediate Modern Hebrew is for learners who can read and understand simple Hebrew at the high novice level (e.g. you can read and understand modern Hebrew, you can describe yourself in Hebrew, such as your job or where you live).

Morah Milka was born and raised in Israel. She has a BA in English and a Teacher's Certificate from Bar Ilan University in Ramat-Gan, and an M.Ed. in Teacher Leadership from Brandeis University. She has taught all levels of modern Hebrew at the University of Michigan for more than a decade, ran the Hebrew for High School Credit program "Keshet," taught a variety of adult Hebrew courses at BIC over the years, and has been teaching Hebrew and Judaic Studies at the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor since 2012. She is a self-proclaimed Hebrew enthusiast and passionate about the evolution of Hebrew, and clarifying complex language forms and structures. She cares about Jewish education and loves the Jewish diversity Ann Arbor offers.

Chodesh Chadash: A BIC Women's Group
Sunday, November 17, 6:30 p.m.
An open women's social group for members of all ages. We will chat, connect, and learn! Join us for this fun opportunity to get to know each other! At this session we will be discussing the book *Does the Soul Survive?* by Rabbi Elie Kaplan Spitz.

Aura of Kabbalat Shabbat
Friday, November 22, 6 p.m.
A Jewish Renewal-inspired singing service led by Rabbi Aura Ahuvia. The choir, dubbed the "Holy Levites," will be holding a rehearsal at 5:30 p.m. leading right up to and seamlessly into services. All are welcome to attend.

Tot Shabbat
Saturday, November 9 and 28, 11 a.m.
Preschoolers begin to learn and love Judaism through storytelling, singing, and hands-on activities. Families join for songs, stories, and more in an interactive service for tots. Tot Shabbats are led by either Katie Shelef or John McLaughlin.

USY: Israel Panel Event (9th–12th grade)
Wednesday, November 13, 6 p.m.
Held in our Youth Lounge, we will be having a "panel" of speakers, each with a different hat! Each speaker will talk briefly about their relationship to Israel and their perspectives before an open Q and A for the rest of the event. Confused about the hats and why "panel" is in quotations? Come and find out!

Gesher After Services Hangout (6th–8th Grade)
Saturday, November 16, 12 p.m.
After services, Gesher members will be invited to the Youth Lounge for our own Kiddish and lunch followed by board games and hanging out.

Chaverim at B.I.G. (3rd–5th Grade)
Sunday, November 17, 12:30 p.m.
Join Chaverim at B.I.G. straight after BIRS! B.I.G. (Best In Games) is a gigantic arcade here in Ann Arbor. Stay tuned for registration and a carpool sign-up sheet.

Family Fun Raiser @ Pizza House
Wednesday, November 20, 6:30 p.m.
Join BIC families at Pizza House for dinner! If you say you are with our group, BIC will get 15% back off your total. Starting 30 minutes after BIRS, feel free to head straight there after pickup.

USY: Kabbalat and Kibbutz (9th–12th Grade)
Friday, November 22, 6 p.m.
Join for USY's second Kabbalat and Kibbutz, back by popular demand! We will meet at a USYer's home and have a nice Friday night service before having a potluck style dinner. We hope to see you there.

Havdalah in Pajamas
Saturday, November 23, 5:30 p.m.
Join BIC families, especially with younger children, to celebrate the new week! We will have a Havdalah service and then watch a movie and enjoy popcorn — all in our pajamas!

Gesher: Israel Cooking Event (6th–8th Grade)
Sunday, November 24, 11 a.m.
Join Gesher for our Israeli styled cooking event! Using the kitchen in the Youth Lounge, we will cook an Israeli meal together. Kids will learn the basics of cooking and kitchen safety while making hummus, Israeli salad, and even pita. Delicious!

Mini Minyan
Saturday, November 28, 10:30 a.m.
Mini Minyan is a slower learner's service for elementary school age children. The service will include Shabbat prayers and a "D'var and Discussion" in place of the Torah service. Mini Minyan is led by the Youth and Family Director Ben Brent.

Talmud Study with Rabbi Dobrusin (via Zoom)
Mondays at 4 p.m.
The class meets on Zoom on Monday afternoons from 4–5:15. We read the text in the original Hebrew or Aramaic with an accompanying English translation and discuss the text in English. No familiarity with Hebrew or prior experience studying Talmud is required. This summer and fall, we will study the fourth chapter of tractate Rosh Hashanah which deals with laws and traditions relating to the blowing of the Shofar and the liturgy of Rosh Hashanah. Check the Beth Israel website for the Zoom link.

Theology Book Club: Online
Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Beth Israel Congregation's Theology Book Club welcomes you to join them to read together and discuss books on Jewish thought and beliefs. The books are in English. Contact Paul Shifrin at (248) 514-7276 for more information.

In Person and Online Services

Evening Minyan
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the M&M Chapel and online
Sundays at 7:30 p.m. online only
Mondays at 7:30 p.m. online only
Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. online only
Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. in the M&M Chapel and online
Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Friday Evening Services: in person and virtual
Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6 p.m.

Shabbat Morning Services: in person and virtual
Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. ■

Federation community engagement fund grants

By Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor Staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor is delighted to announce the allocation of two Community Engagement Fund (CEF) grants to local initiatives which promote cross-organizational collaboration and innovation in the local Jewish community. A grant selection committee, comprised of community volunteers, evaluated proposals against the fund's principles of communal collaboration, creativity and innovation, and joy and connectivity.

Reflections: Commemorating One Year Since October 7

Spearheaded by the JCC and Jewish Federation, a large group of organizations, including Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, Hillel at University of Michigan, Chabad House of Ann Arbor, the Jewish Communal Leadership Program, Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, and Jewish Family Services, came together to commemorate the horror of October 7, 2023, and reflect on the past year. The community event on October 6 included visual art displays, live music and performances, poetry readings, film screenings of documentaries, testimony workshops led by local artists, and remarks from Israeli visitors who shared their experiences of October 7 and their fight to save their friends from captivity.

Israel educator Alex Sinclair

The following day, several of the exhibits were installed on the Diag at the University of Michigan, which was turned into a recreation of Tel Aviv's "Hostage Square" for the day. The day ended with a vigil coordinated by student and community leaders.

In addition to the Community Engagement Grant, additional funding was provided by the Jewish Federations of North America and a Mithabrim Grant from Aish.

"This is an excellent use of funds," said CEF Committee member Babette Levy Daskin. "This is an important observance for our community, and almost all Jewish organizations in Ann Arbor were involved."

A full report on the commemorations can be found elsewhere in this edition of the WJN.

Alex Sinclair Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

Beth Israel Congregation, Temple Beth Emeth, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, and the University of Michigan Hillel are jointly hosting Israel educator Alex Sinclair for a Scholar-in-Residence Weekend. Alex will speak about Israel, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Jewish identity, and the changing connections between

Continue on Pg 19

Jewish Federation's commitment to trauma relief in Israel

By Amichay Findling, Israel and Overseas Manager, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

As the war in Israel enters its second year and intensifies into an all-out multi-front war, it is a good time to review our support for Israelis and measure our impact on Israeli society.

Through the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, local community members supported Israeli society with their donations in three different ways: allocations from the Federation's Annual Community Campaign, an Ann Arbor-driven Israel Emergency Campaign, and, the largest portion, through the collective allocations from the nation-wide Israel Emergency Campaign of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA).

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor supports causes in Israel every year through the Annual Community Campaign. In 2024, Federation emphasized assisting Israelis to cope with war-related trauma. Studies indicate that 12–15% of soldiers who experienced severe and traumatic combat experiences will suffer from PTSD, about 35% will develop partial symptoms of PTSD, and 50% will manage to overcome and return to routine life. These figures suggest that out of about 90,000 reserve combat soldiers, over 30,000 will suffer from silent mental scars, and these are the soldiers Federation aims to support.

This support went to two organizations, both of which were funded for the first time in 2024 by the Annual Community Campaign : Ruca's Farm, a rehabilitative organic farm for the treatment of Israeli veterans with PTSD, and Bshvil Hamachar ("The Path for Tomorrow"), an organization of mental health professionals dedicated to supporting IDF combat reservists as they navigate the path to healing from the emotional and psychological toll of war. Each organization was allocated $7,500 from the 2024 Campaign.

Federation CEO Eileen Freed meeting a therapy horse in Nahalal during the March 2024 Solidarity Mission from Ann Arbor to Israel.

Both organizations use unconventional methods to assist veterans as they cope with their mental scars: At Ruca's Farm, they work together to physically and emotionally build, cultivate and grow, engaging in a research-based process of productive and meaningful agricultural work combined with supervised group therapy. The organization, just founded in 2022, had not even finished building all its farming infrastructure when the war broke out on October 7. Since then, three cohorts of Israeli veterans with PTSD have been treated in the farm, thanks to the generous support of the Ann Arbor area community, as well as the farm's dedicated crew of volunteers who keep it running, growing, and thriving. At the time of this writing, a third cohort of veterans — including two groups of soldiers returning from the present warfronts in a joint initiative with the IDF Disabled Veteran's Association — is at the farm.

Since the outbreak of the current war, Bshvil Hamachar has been providing immediate assistance to thousands of reservists who suffer from acute emotional and psychological effects when returning from active combat zones. In recent months, they have conducted 50 "Initial Response" Healing Retreats that have provided support to about 700 soldiers. The framework of these retreats consists of three days in nature to allow soldiers to process combat events immediately after they occur. The program provides mental tools for returning to functioning and establishes a personal coping framework for reintegrating into routine life. It also equips combat units with resources to bolster resilience and cohesion within their teams, preparing them for the upcoming operational demands ahead.

Our local Federation did not only allocate funds to assist combatants recovering from the traumas of war, but also civilians, and the children evacuated from Gaza Envelope kibbutzim as well. Many of them found refuge in Ann Arbor's partnership region of the Jezreel Valley, which is home to Moshav Nahalal. In Nahalal, the community stood up to support the evacuees in several ways. One important way, supported by the Ann Arbor community's own Emergency Campaign in response to the war, was therapeutic horse-riding sessions with trained therapists, in one of Nahalal's horse farms. During the Jewish Federation's Solidarity Mission to Israel in March 2024, Ann Arborites heard a presentation from one of the teenagers who went through this therapeutic process, sharing the principles of animal-assisted therapy and how she was empowered by the therapy to act as a therapeutic assistant in the farm.

It is important to know that local contributions to the national Israel Emergency Campaign made a significant impact. Across North America, Jewish Federations raised more than $830 million to support Israelis. Of that, approximately $500 million have been allocated to over 500 different Israeli organizations assisting Israelis with various aspects of recovery and rebuilding from the ruins of ongoing war. Many of the responses of JFNA and its partners in Israel set the tone and paved the way for later governmental organizations' work. Thanks to existing relationships and infrastructure built up over decades, partnerships on the ground already existed, and Federations could make a meaningful impact as soon as the crisis broke out. As a community, generous donors from the Ann Arbor area contributed over $400,000 to JFNA's Israel Emergency Fund. This support in a time of extreme need is deeply appreciated.

For example, when it comes to medical assistance and trauma relief, 19% of allocations ($101M as of July 2024) was allocated to 195 Israeli NGOs, which helped 406,816 Israelis receive mental health support. The mental health needs of Israelis, especially those who experienced the October 7 attack firsthand, as well as tens of thousands of evacuees still away from their homes, are immense. In conversations with Israelis who survived that horrible day, some of whom have shared their stories in Ann Arbor, one hears the word "therapy" many, many times. It's raised in the context of surviving children, but not only. So many need therapy in Israel, and therapy, as anyone who's personally considered it knows, is a long and expensive process.

Such a process requires creativity and innovation, and many Israeli NGOs are leading that. One example is HaGal Sheli — "My Wave," a nonprofit working since 2012 with at-risk children to heal and empower them through surfing. As the war began, and thousands of traumatized youths fled from southern communities, HaGal Sheli took upon themselves to lend a helping surfboard. Youth from Kfar Aza and other affected communities were invited to therapeutic surfing sessions, led by certified surfing instructors and therapists. JFNA allocated $200,000 to help their work, enabling hundreds of teenagers to go through these therapeutic processes.

As of this writing, Israel is still at war, and many still deal with trauma. Your support for the Israel Emergency campaign, and your ongoing support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Annual Community Campaign makes a real impact to our brothers and sisters in Israel. Unfortunately, the needs in Israel are not going away anytime soon. Please visit www.JewishAnnArbor.org to make a donation that will help our Israeli family rebuild their lives. ■

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"Identity Potpourri" Art Exhibition

2Fik, Artist

On Display Oct 30 - Nov 8
Now Studios (715 N University Ave bsmt)
A mixture of different photographic work by the artist from various series between 2006 and 2016.

"A Contemporary Guide to Looking at Photographs" Art Exhibition

Elisheva Gavra, Artist

Opening: Monday, November 11 | 5 - 7 PM
On Display: November 11 - 15
Now Studios (715 N University Ave bsmt)
Gavra makes a different way of engaging with the world through photography.

***Black Power, Jewish Politics* Book Discussion**

Marc Dollinger (San Fransisco State Uni)

Tuesday, November 19 | 6:30 - 8 pm
2022 South Thayer Building
Marc Dollinger looks at how American Jews leveraged the Black Power movement to increase ethnic & religious identity in the 1960s and 70s

We are pleased to provide reasonable accommodations to enable full participation in this event. Please contact js-event-coord@umich.edu to request disability accommodations or with any questions/concerns.

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Federation's major gifts event generates community and appreciation

By Staff of Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

On September 23, UM Law Professor Barbara McQuade was the keynote speaker at Federation's Major Gifts Event, which kicked off the 2025 Annual Community Campaign to enrich Jewish life locally, in Israel, and around the world. The event was chaired by Jessica 'Decky' Alexander and Bruce Kutinsky and was a night of warm community in appreciation of those who contribute $5,000 or more to the Annual Community Campaign, as well as those who have been major givers of their time through leadership in the last year, those who have made a commitment to sustain Federation through the Life & Legacy program, and community members under the age of 40 who contribute $1,000 or more to the Campaign.

To learn more about how you can support the community, visit www.JewishAnnArbor.org or contact Federation's Campaign Manager Becky Melamed at becky@jewishannarbor.org.

Gregory Fox and Thea Glicksman checking in to the Major Gifts Event.

Event Chair Decky Alexander addressed the crowd.

(L-R) Roberta Tankanow, Sue Adler, and Lisa Weiss at the Major Gifts Event.

UM Law Professor Barbara McQuade was the event's keynote speaker. Before her presentation, she signed copies of her recent book Attack from Within: How Disinformation Is Sabotaging America.

Federation Board Member Marty Shichtman during the programs Q&A session following Barbara McQuade's keynote presentation.

Approaching the one-year commemoration of Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, attendees stood to sing HaTikvah, Israel's national anthem, to close the event.

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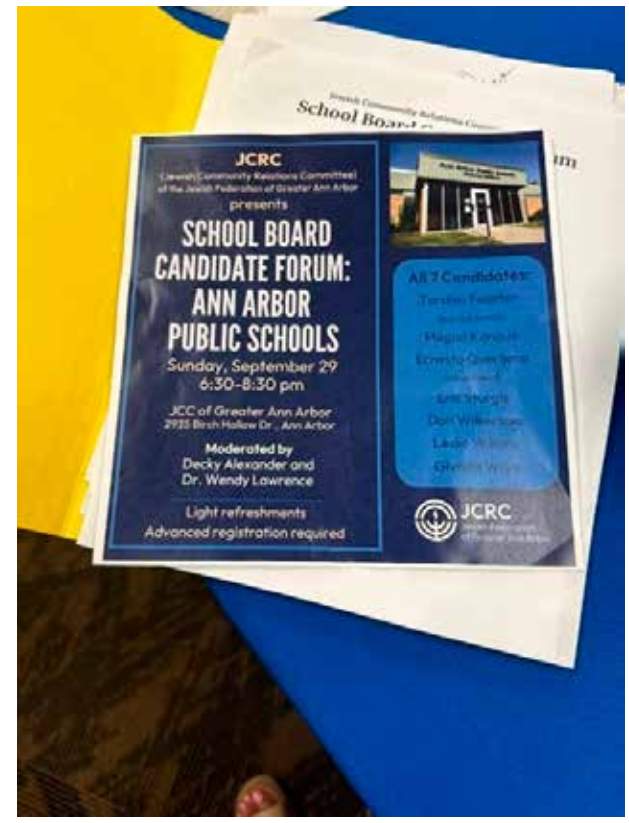
Ann Arbor School Board Candidates Forum

By Rabbi Asher Lopatin, Director of Community Relations, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

On Sunday, September 30, the Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor hosted seven candidates running for the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education for a Candidates' Forum (the eighth candidate, Eric Sturges, could not attend due to illness).

While these school board candidates have attended many such forums this election cycle, this was the only one that focused on issues of concern to the Jewish community. Moderated by JCRC Co-Chairs Decky Alexander and Wendy Lawrence, the candidates answered questions on topics such as how to fight antisemitism in schools and beyond, and even how they would define antisemitism. There were questions about the in-limbo acceptance of an AAPS affinity group for Jewish parents, about how to ensure the safety of Jewish students expressing their Jewish identity at school, and about whether the candidates supported having the school board weigh in on international issues such as the Israel-Hamas war (school board member Ernesto Querijero was the only candidate who answered in the affirmative to this last question).



Program for the JCRC School Board Candidates' Forum

The forum showed, however, that local Jews are interested in issues beyond just their own community. Significantly, a conversation emerged about equity and the uneven funding of PTOs across the district. The candidates were also asked about the imbalance between time spent on regular school board business and financial issues — allowing a $25 million deficit slip through the cracks — and passage of a Ceasefire Resolution. (AAPS was one of only two school boards in the country to pass such a resolution.)

As with the other Candidates' Forums that the Federation's JCRC sponsored, there was political and even religious diversity in the audience. In particular, it was meaningful to see former School Board president Rima Mohammad in attendance. Additionally, current school board president Torchio Feaster appeared on the panel, despite running unopposed for his two-year position.

At the end of the Forum, Jewish Federation Board President Marla Linderman Richelew thanked both the candidates and the audience for a warm and friendly atmosphere. Perhaps one of the most important takeaways of the Forum was that our Ann Arbor community — Jewish and beyond — can come together, deal with difficult and even contentious issues, and still be friends and neighbors committed to the common good for our families and our kids. Even when the formal portion of the forum ended, there were several warm and productive conversations between candidates and the audience, and between many attendees who had not met each other previously. It is the goal of the JCRC to deepen these relationships — within the Jewish community and beyond — and to provide a model for all for a shared, productive society.

To learn more about the JCRC, visit www.JewishAnnArbor.org or contact Asher Lopatin at asher@jewishannarbor.org. ■

Seven of eight candidates running for a seat on the AAPS School Board during the forum.

Columnist David Brooks on election results at Federation's Main Event

By Rachel Wall, Communications and Development Director, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

The *New York Times* political expert David Brooks will headline the November 19 event, hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.

Attendees at the last Jewish Federation Main Event, at Washtenaw Community College. This year's event will return to WCC on November 19 and feature David Brooks of the New York Times.

Given that the Main Event will take place two weeks after the November 5 presidential election, the event promises to be an exciting and relevant discussion about the future of the country.

"While the outcome of the election remains uncertain, what's clear is that David Brooks brings a wealth of insight that will help us interpret the results and understand their broader implications for our nation's future," says Josh Pasek, professor of Political Science and Communication Studies at the University of Michigan and one of the event co-chairs.

Brooks will offer historical and cultural perspectives for the American Jewish community, regardless of the outcome of the election.

The Main Event with David Brooks will take place on Tuesday, November 19, at 6 p.m. at Washtenaw Community College's Morris Lawrence Building. The program will also be live streamed for those unable to attend in person.

About David Brooks

Brooks is a New York Times op-ed columnist and recurring commentator. He is known for bringing readers and audiences face-to-face with impactful and relevant topics with humor, insight, and passion. He is a keen observer of the American way of life and a savvy analyst of present-day politics and foreign affairs.

The author of six books and a prolific columnist and speaker, Brooks seeks to explore and explain humanity and the way we live. With intellectual curiosity and emotional wisdom, he underscores the value of community and the importance of nourishing both the inner self and the social self in our journeys to live fulfilling lives.

In Brooks' latest release, *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen,* Brooks makes the case that at the center of any healthy and thriving organization, community, or nation is the crucial skill of being able to see and value other people. Written to speak to audiences of all kinds, this book aims to give readers the tools needed to move beyond division and polarization and connect with others on an innately human level.

About the Main Event

Bringing the community together is a primary goal of the Main Event, and with the support of the November 2024 Event Chairs, Alisa and Kevin Cox, and Laura and Josh Pasek, this year's event will do just that.

"I'm honored and excited to serve as a chair for this year's event," says Laura Pasek. "Since moving to Ann Arbor in 2011, Josh and I have experienced the warmth of this community firsthand, and I look forward to celebrating it at this exciting event."

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor holds an annual Main Event as a

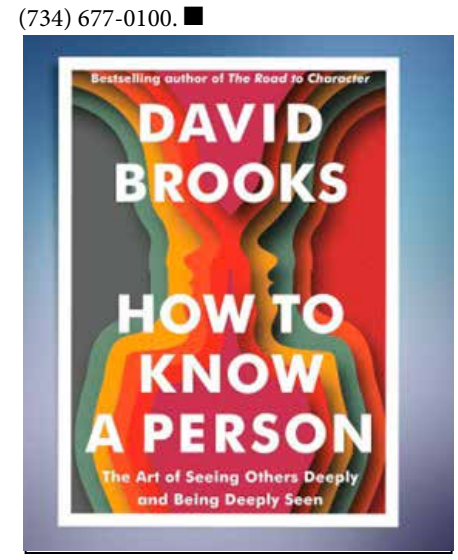
community-building program that is also a fundraiser, both celebrating and supporting the Jewish community. Past events have included headliners such as Ann Arbor-based poet journalist Aaron Dworkin, the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, and author Jonathan Safran Foer.

"I actually didn't know that much about the Main Event prior to being asked to Chair," says Kevin Cox. "After learning more about it, I realize how great an honor it is to host this event, which raises money to help hundreds of Jewish families in so many ways. I look to build community wherever I go, and community building is the foundation of the Federation."

Funds raised from the event and the wider Annual Community Campaign will provide funding to Federation's communal partners in Ann Arbor, Israel, and around the world. The Campaign also supports community-wide initiatives of the Federation, such as combating antisemitism and coordinating community-wide security needs.

Attendees of the Main Event with David Brooks will be asked to support the community with a gift or pledge to the Jewish Federation's 2025 Annual Community Campaign.

For details and tickets to this year's Main Event, visit www.JewishAnnArbor.org or call (734) 677-0100. ■



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5:30pm	Doors open
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Thank you to this year's Event Chairs

Alisa & Kevin Cox
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Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

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Participants will be asked to support the community with a meaningful gift to the Jewish Federation's 2025 Annual Community Campaign. (Suggested minimum donation $100.)

Holidays with the shinshinim

By Lahav Hyitner and Danielle Or Lev, Ann Arbor ShinShinim

Danielle and Lahav arrived in Ann Arbor in August 2024 as volunteers on a year of service from Israel before their army service, through the ShinShinim program of the international Jewish Agency for Israel.

October has been a month filled with activity and excitement for us, the ShinShinim, here in Ann Arbor. With so much planning and preparation for the Jewish holidays, alongside our regular schedules at the local institutions, we were constantly on the go. Despite how busy it was, our work and interactions with the community have been incredibly fulfilling and energizing. It's amazing to see our plans come to life and to witness the positive impact we're making on so many kids throughout the area!

Settling into routine at local institutions

This month, we continued to establish our roles and responsibilities within the community institutions. At the JCC's Early Childhood Center (ECC), Danielle started teaching Israeli children's songs that combine dance and Hebrew language learning. She also launched a special weekly class called "Israeli Music and Dance" where children can join her to enjoy singing and dancing to Israeli music. These engaging activities foster a fun and vibrant atmosphere, allowing the kids to immerse themselves in Israeli culture while promoting physical activity and social interaction.

Meanwhile, Lahav kicked off Hebrew lessons at Temple Beth Emeth (TBE), where he introduced the kids to the Hebrew alphabet through games and activities, sparking their curiosity about Israeli culture and language.

Reflecting on September: The Temple Beth Emeth retreat

We ended September with an unforgettable weekend retreat in Howell with fourth and fifth graders from TBE. This retreat gave us the opportunity to connect more deeply with the kids and the educational team, as well as to learn about the unique activities of the synagogue. We experienced classic American outdoor adventures, including a climbing tower and skipping stones on the lake, all while enjoying the beautiful nature surrounding us.

One of the highlights of the retreat was the talent show. The boys at the retreat, with Lahav's choreography, put on a comedic ballet performance that had everyone laughing. It was a delightful memory that we and the kids will cherish for a long time!

At the end of the month, we participated in York's Jivia ("Jewish Trivia") community event. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet new people from the community and experience the welcoming spirit that truly defines the Ann Arbor Jewish community.

Celebrating the High Holidays

As October began, we dove into various activities in celebration of Rosh Hashanah.

At TBE's Religious School, we led music lessons for children aged 3–10 and a class for seventh graders where we discussed the differences between how Rosh Hashanah is celebrated in Israel compared to the Diaspora. For example, in Israel, everyone celebrates on the same date, the entire country enjoys a break from school, and families gather for festive meals at the exact same time, which results in heavily congested roads!

In the seventh grade class, we also baked honey cakes with the children — one for each child to take home to their family. This activity was inspired by one of Danielle's family traditions. Every year, her family bakes honey cakes and places them in the lobby of their apartment building, along with a New Year's greeting encouraging their neighbors to take a sweet slice for a "Shana Metuka" (sweet year). It felt special to share this tradition with the kids and to help them create a similar experience for their own families.

At the Hebrew Day School (HDS), we conducted a range of activities for Rosh Hashanah, as well. With the older students, we discussed leadership, drawing inspiration from the symbolic saying "Be the head and not the tail." We explored questions like "What makes a good leader?" and "Who can be a leader?"

For the younger students, we focused on the traditional symbols and blessings of the holiday through interactive activities, similar to those used in Israeli youth movements. At the end of these activities, each child created a personalized bookmark with their own wish for the upcoming year — a wish they can revisit every time they open a book, serving as a reminder to make it come true.

On the same day that we led these Rosh Hashanah activities at HDS, we learned about the early October Iranian attack on Israel. It felt strange and difficult not to be home during such a challenging time, knowing that our family and friends were in shelters while we continued our work here. Despite the heartache, we understand that our mission of strengthening the bond between Israel and the Diaspora is crucial, especially during these moments.

Celebrating Sukkot and more

We continued to celebrate the Jewish holidays with more educational and engaging activities. For Sukkot, we did a music-based activity at TBE where the children learned about the tradition of building a sukkah. We also introduced them to the iconic Israeli song "Shlomit Bona Sukka" by Naomi Shemer. Her work is deeply embedded in Israeli culture. To make the lesson even more fun, Lahav played the role of a biblical character who had been wandering in the desert for 30 years, helping the kids understand the origins of Sukkot and the historical journey of the Israelites.

Spending the holidays away from home felt different — there was a sense of longing as we saw photos and joined video calls with our families during the festive meals. But it was also a unique experience to celebrate the holidays in a new way with different traditions and with our host families, who made sure we felt as comfortable and welcomed as possible.

Honoring October 7

On October 7, we attended a ceremony on the UM Diag and joined a commemoration dinner at Hillel. We also organized a special ceremony at HDS, where we shared stories about the volunteers in Israel during the war, sang songs with the students, and created yellow lantern-shaped origami with messages of hope, encouragement, and solidarity. We sent these lanterns to Nahalal Elementary School in Ann Arbor's partnership community of Moshav Nahalal, to spread light during these dark times.

In addition, Danielle gave a speech on October 6 during the day-long "Reflections" art exhibit commemoration at the JCC. There, she shared her personal story from last year's October 7 and spoke about Noa Price, who was the cousin of her best friend Roy. Noa, an observation soldier stationed at Nahal Oz, tragically lost her life on that fateful day. Her final message to her family was, "I love you," and then the contact with her was lost. Danielle shared that Noa's story touched her deeply, and that sharing it with the community was a very meaningful moment for her.

Looking ahead

October has been a truly meaningful month for us. We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of this community, and we look forward to the months ahead as we continue to learn, grow, and share Israel's culture with all of you. We invite you to reach out to us on Instagram @shinshinim_annarbor, where we regularly share updates on our ongoing activities so you can stay connected throughout our time here. You can also contact us via email at danielle@jewishannarbor.org and lahav@jewishannarbor.org. We would love to hear from you and continue to build this connection together! ■

November Calendar

Always check websites or call for updates before planning to attend anything listed here.

Friday 1 Rosh Hodesh Cheshvan
Candle Lighting 6:10 p.m.
Book Fair Virtual Event with Samuel Kassow, Lauren Grodstein, and Lisa Barr. Resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto: A Literary Panel over Zoom. 12 p.m.

Saturday 2 Rosh Hodesh Cheshvan, Noach
Havdallah 7:09 p.m.

Sunday 3
Jewish Poets of Color Zilka Joseph and Isaac Pickell. Register at greenedm@umich.edu for the event location. 12:30 p.m.
Book Fair Virtual Event with Ayelet Gundar-Goshen and Maya Arad. Zoom. 7 p.m.

Monday 4
Book Fair. Hasia Diner, *Opening Doors: The Unlikely Alliance Between the Irish and Jews in America*, at the JCC. 7 p.m.

Tuesday 5 Election Day

Wednesday 6
Yidish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group): Zoom. About 45 minutes each of conversation and reading. Free and open to all those interested in Yiddish language, literature, and culture, no matter what level of proficiency. For more information, to get the link, and to make certain that we are meeting on a specific day, please email Elliot H. Gertel at egertel@umich.edu at least one day before scheduled meeting day every Wednesday (except major Jewish holidays). 2 p.m.

Book Fair. In-Person Lunch & Learn with Eddie Shapiro. *Here's to the Ladies: Conversations with More of the Great Women of Musical Theater*. At the JCC. 12 p.m.
Wild Burning Rage & Song: Replies to Scottsboro: Concert & Lecture with Amelia Glaser, Heather Klein, Anthony Russell, & Uri Schreter. At the Ark. 6 p.m.

Book Fair. New Works in Jewish Speculative Fiction, with Benjamin Resnik, Zachary C. Solomon, and Hilary Zaid.. Moderated by Jeffrey Pickell. Zoom. 7 p.m.

Thursday 7

Friday 8
Candle Lighting 5:01 p.m.
Book Fair. A Virtual Yom Ha'aliyah Event with Asaf Elia-Shalev, *Israel's Black Panthers: The Radicals Who Punctured a Nation's Founding Myth*. Moderated by Bryan Roby. Zoom 12 p.m.
Israel Education Week Scholar-in-residence with Alex Sinclair at TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Saturday 9 Lech-Lecha
Havdallah 6:02 p.m.

Book Fair. Virtual Kristallnacht Commemoration with Chris Heath, *No Road Leading Back: An Improbable Escape from the Nazis, and the Tangled Way We Tell the Story of the Holocaust*. Zoom. 7:30 p.m.
Israel Education Week Scholar-in-residence with Alex Sinclair at Beth Israel. 9:30 a.m.

Sunday 10
Book Fair. Live Event with Noah Rinsky, *The Old Jewish Men's Guide to Eating, Sleeping and Futzing Around*. At Third Mind Books, 118 E. Washington St. Moderated by Chuck Newman. 12 p.m.
Book Fair. Live Event with the Honorable David S. Tatel, *Vision: A Memoir of Blindness and Justice*. In Conversation with Eli Savit, Washtenaw County Prosecutor. At the JCC. 7 p.m.
Israel Education Week Scholar-in-residence with Alex Sinclair at Downtown AADL. Discussion with teens. 1 p.m.

Monday 11

Tuesday 12
Book Fair. Genetic Counseling and Jewish Genetic Disorders with Myra Sack, Gila Pfeffer, Jessica Fein, and Virginia Isaacs Cover, moderated by Wendy Uhlmann. Zoom. 7 p.m.

Wednesday 13
Book Fair. In-Person Lunch & Learn with Dr. Mimi Zieman, *Tap Dancing on Everest: A Young Doctor's Unlikely Adventure*, moderated by Dr. Jonathan Trobe. At the JCC. 12 p.m.
Yidish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group): Zoom. 2 p.m.

Thursday 14
Book Fair. Live Event with Amir Tibon, *The Gates of Gaza: A Story of Betrayal, Survival, and Hope in Israel's Borderland*. At the JCC. Time TBD

Friday 15
Candle Lighting 4:55 p.m.
Rabbi Richard Address at TBE for Shabbaton.

Saturday 16 Vayeira
Havdallah 5:56 p.m.
Rabbi Richard Address at TBE for Shabbaton.
Book Fair. A Conversation on Jewish Conversion, Virtual event with Melvin S. Marsh and Reuven Fenton, moderated by Rabbi Josh Whinston, Zoom. 7:30 p.m.

Sunday 17
Book Fair. Local Authors Brunch. At the JCC. 11 a.m.
Hebrew Day School new library dedication. 3 p.m.

Monday 18
Book Fair. Two Jews; Three Opinions, live Event with Abigail Pogrebin, R'Dov Linzer, and Boruch Cohen moderated by Rabbi Joel Goldstein. At the JCC. 7 p.m.

Tuesday 19
Federation Main Event with David Brooks
Black Power, Jewish Politics book discussion with author, Marc Dollinger. Frankel. 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday 20
Book Fair. Hybrid Event: Empty Nesters Cookbook Club with Rachel Gordin Barnett and Lyssa Kligman Harvey, authors of *Kugels and Collards: Stories of Food, Family, and Tradition in Jewish South Carolina*. At the JCC. Authors will join virtually. 6 p.m.
Yidish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group): Zoom. 2 p.m.

Thursday 21

Friday 22
Candle Lighting 4:49 p.m.

Saturday 23 Chayei Sarah
Havdallah 5:52 p.m.

Sunday 24

Monday 25

Tuesday 26

Wednesday 27
Yidish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group): Zoom. 2 p.m.

Thursday 28

Friday 29
Candle Lighting 4:46 p.m.

Saturday 30 Toldot and Sigd
Havdallah 5:50 p.m.

Phone numbers, websites, and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM): 1429 Hill Street, 248-408-3269, annarborminyan.org

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-445-1910, aarecon.org

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC): 2000 Washtenaw Ave, 734-665-9897, bethisrael-aa.org

Chabad House: 715 Hill Street, 734-995-3276, jewmich.com

Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies (EMU): www.emich.edu/jewish-studies/

Frankel Center: 202 S. Thayer St., lsa.umich.edu/judaic/

Jewish Community Center (JCC): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 745-971-0990, jccannarbor.org

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-975-9872, jewishculturalsociety.org

Jewish Family Services (JFS): 2245 South State Street, 734-769-0209, jfsannarbor.org

Jewish Federation: 2939 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-677-0100, jewishannarbor.org

Pardes Hannah: 2010 Washtenaw Ave, 734-761-5324, pardeshannah.org

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE): 2309 Packard Road, 734-665-4744, templebethemeth.org

UM Hillel: 1429 Hill Street 734-769-0500, michiganhillel.org ■

Wild Burning Rage and Song: Replies to Scottsboro

November 6 @ 6 00 pm **FREE**
at The Ark

This concert/lecture brings to life a twentieth-century world of Jewish responses to the pervasive climate of race prejudice that gave birth to the Scottsboro trials—and injustices to come—through a performance of Yiddish and English poems from the era newly set to music.

The Scottsboro Trials stand among the most renowned miscarriages of justice in the history of American jurisprudence. Beginning in 1931 with a false accusation of rape against nine Black teenagers, the case went on to invigorate a nascent Civil Rights movement, earn the international support of the Communist Party, and establish itself as a watchword among various strands of the American Left. It also inspired reaction from the contemporary world of arts and letters, most famously by poets Langston Hughes and Richard Wright and novelist Harper Lee, who adapted its events in To Kill a Mockingbird.

Teaching Jewish monsters and magic

By Jack Zaientz

Jewish lore has unicorns (re'em). We also have mermaids (dulfanin), demons (shedim and mazzikin), multiple kinds of dragons including tannin, Leviathan the great sea dragon, and Tali the great celestial dragon. We have angels, lots of them, including Gabriel, who destroyed Sodom and Gemorah; Raphael the healer; Lailah, the gentle warrior who brings our souls to our bodies and returns us to heaven when we die; and Dumah (silence) who oversees our graves. Our lore is full of magic. We have multiple forms of divination, curses, charms, learning and memory magic, dream magic, spell books, and magical defenses from demons and the evil eye. We have the Baal Shem, wonder-working rabbis who perform exorcisms and write amulets of protection and healing, a myriad of home magical-medical practices and traditions of measuring graveyards to make necromantic candles to ask favors of the dead.

While this lore can be found in collections of "folklore", e.g. collections of oral stories from local communities around the Jewish world, more often this lore comes from Jewish religious texts. The Torah, when read pshat (simple meanings), but even more so when read through Jewish midrash, is filled with angels, giants, and divinatory and necromantic practices. The Talmud is filled with discussions of, and conversations with, shedim and stories of golems. Later kabbalistic texts, including the Zohar, build on these foundations with ideas of dybbukim and ibburim, negative and positive spirit possessions. Even our Shabbat liturgy participates, providing us with Shalom Aleichem, a traditional song that first wishes peace on God's ministering angels and then asks for their blessings of peace as well.

While modern liberal and, and to a lesser degree Orthodox, Judaism tends to downplay, redirect, or reimagine this lore, I believe that has come at a cost. (Hassidic Judaism largely still embraces this tradition.) We've removed an essential vocabulary that helps ground discussions of belief and God, and we have disconnected ourselves from family and religious traditions and cultural identities. We've taken a sense of wonder and connection out of our understanding of our world. We ask "Why do we put stones on graves? Why do we break a glass at a wedding?" We're given modern answers, with the stones symbolizing memory and, ironically, the broken glass symbolizing permanence. These answers are uplifting but ring false. There are older answers though. The stones help (part of) our departed's spirits stay in their grave and not wander as ghosts. Breaking the glass is a way to keep jealous shedim from spoiling the wedding. There are deep metaphors here, as well, just waiting to be shared. The older explanations are built on symbols of care, love, and protection in a world that is often devoid of all three. For me, at least, that resonates more than the rationalized spiritual versions.

I've been learning and teaching this Jewish magic and monster lore for the better part of a decade, starting with a set of pre-COVID high school classes I was recruited to teach at Temple Beth Emeth. In the time since, I've taught a variety of teen and adult classes, published articles for the *Jewish Review of Books* website, hosted a podcast and written my own blog and social media feeds on the topic. While my work has often been met by good-natured puzzlement, just as often met with a slew of concrete questions, the most common of which is "Why did no one tell me?" Why did no one tell me that the women of the Jewish tradition had a rich tradition of home magical rituals that are largely lost in the United States? Why did no one tell me that we have unicorns, giants, angels, and demons? They also include "how" questions. "My new home or my office feels wrong, contaminated … how can I make it right?" "How can I feel protected? How can I feel connected?" These questions come from religious Jews and cultural Jews of all types. I can feel the hunger from both groups. Recently I gave a talk at a Reform synagogue outside of Los Angeles. Their rabbi was excited because my talk would help legitimize these topics for his congregation and give him more room to talk about important ideas that can be difficult to engage with including "what does Judaism say happens after we die?" without feeling the need to skip over the magical bits that don't align with rational modernism.

For folks interested, I've directed them to a pile of wonderful books, each of which pick up pieces of the lore. Some of my initial suggestions include Louis Ginzberg's venerable and amazing *Legends of the Jews*, Rabbi Joshua Trachtenberg's equally venerable *Jewish Magic and Superstition: A Study in Folk Religion*, Harold Schwartz *Tree of Souls: The Mythology of Judaism*, and his folklore collections, Rabbi Natan Slifkin's (now out of print) *Sacred Monsters*, and *Ritual Medical Lore of Sephardic Women: Sweetening the Spirits, Healing the Sick* by Isaac Jack Lévy and Rosemary Lévy Zumwalt. These are only the beginning, though. There are lots more.

I'm also currently publishing my own Jewish Monsters and Magic trading cards through Madness Heart Press. The cards feature a combination of my original graphics, collage art, and photographs as well as vintage illustrations and public domain images. Between the two decks, there are 108 individual cards that tell the stories of angels and shedim (demons); giants and sea monsters; rabbinic grimoires and amulets; Jewish women's home magic rituals and ingredients; and a long list of amazing characters including Yosef Sheyda (Joseph the Demon), demon friend to the Rabbis of the Talmud; the immortal Seraḥ Bat Asher, adopted granddaughter of Jacob the Patriarch who helped Moses free the Hebrews; Joseph Della Reina, a devout rabbi who was corrupted by Lilith and Samael; and Ornais, a gender-fluid vampiric demon. They draw on Torah, Talmudic and post-Talmudic Jewish commentary, the Jewish apocrypha, medieval traveler's tales, Kabbalah texts, early modern legends and diaries, and modern Jewish broadsheets, news reports, and ethnographies. The cards draw on original source documents wherever possible and leverage the best of modern religious writing and academic research. The cards can be ordered via Kickstarter at https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/ranthalix/jewish-monsters-and-magic-trading-cards. ■

Emma Shimovich joins AARC as Beit Sefer Head Teacher

By Emily Eisbruch

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC) is pleased to welcome Emma Shimovich as the new head teacher in our Beit Sefer (religious school). "Emma is bringing tremendous caring, thoughtful teaching, and lively music to our Beit Sefer," comments AARC Rabbi Gabrielle Pescador. "We are delighted to have her on board leading our students."

Emma Shimovich

Parents comment that there's a blend of fun and meaningful activities at the Beit Sefer. At Rosh Hashanah children's services, Emma led a lively experience for the students and several parents, including dancing to "The Ve'Ahavta Hokey Pokey," as well as a story about the value of memories, and kids sharing their goals for the new year (goals ranged from "more courage" to doing a rainbow kick in soccer). A September Beit Sefer overnight retreat at the farm of AARC member Carole Caplan featured a Havdalah service with the families, beautiful warm fall weather, cooking over the campfire, and sleeping under the stars.

Emma is currently a senior at the University of Michigan, majoring in Social Theory and Practice and minoring in Judaic studies. Growing up in Skokie, Illinois, she spent summers in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, at Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute (URJ OSRUI). Emma became a counselor and song leader for the past four summers. In addition to her AARC head teacher position, Emma is the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor's music teacher.

"I have a passion for Jewish music and love playing guitar and singing which I incorporate into our classroom at Beit Sefer," says Emma. "I frequently lead Shabbat services on campus and have also taken Hebrew courses throughout high school and college."

"Although I grew up in the Reform community, Reconstructionist Judaism greatly appeals to me as it allows one to make Judaism their own and gives one the opportunity to engage in practices and rituals that are meaningful to them," Emma says. "Additionally, as an outdoor lover, I am beyond excited to have several classes on the farm and talk about teva (nature) and Earth-based Judaism."

Beit Sefer staff working along with Emma to create a special experience for the students include teacher Emily Ohl and three madrichim (student teachers). The Beit Sefer's offerings this year have been enhanced through consultation with curriculum expert Aviva Panush.

The Beit Sefer is open to children of both AARC members and non-members. The school warmly welcomes new students.

The AARC is a caring, inclusive, and music-loving community of people who want to practice and study Judaism — or simply be around people who share a commitment to Judaism's values. The AARC's spiritual leader, Rabbi Gabrielle Pescador, is known for her warmth, her collaborative spirit, and her incredible voice and harp playing. You are invited to visit https://aarecon.org/ or email Emily Ohl (emily@aarecon.org) to learn more about the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation or specifically about the Beit Sefer.

AARC Events for November

November 1
Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan with Rabbi Gabrielle. On Zoom. 9 a.m.

November 9
Second Saturday Morning Shabbat Service. This is a hybrid Shabbat Service led by our Rabbi Gabrielle Pescador at the JCC and on Zoom. Zoom link will be sent out the week before the event. 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

November 13
Pop-In Cheshvan Teaching on Zoom. This is an hour-long session led by our rabbi. 7–8 p.m.

November 22
Fourth Friday Kabbalat Shabbat. This is a hybrid service led by Rabbi Gabrielle Pescador in person at the JCC and on Zoom. Everyone is welcome! 6:30 p.m.

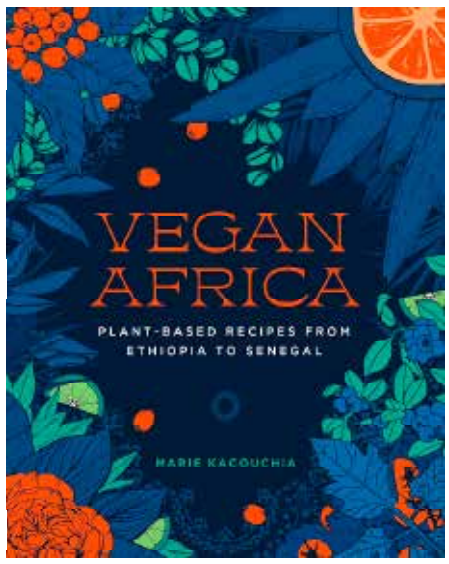
For more information about services or events or to receive Zoom links, please email:
emily@aarecon.org. Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation website: aarecon.org ■

Fall is for squash

By Lonnie Sussman

I hope everyone had a meaningful month of Tishrei. We marked the new Jewish year and mourned the deaths and destruction from a year of war. I know my emotions were mixed and I am not alone with these feelings. Some days it is difficult to feel hopeful and some days we need to push forward and feel the strength and energy to feel hopeful. It will take more than a warm bowl of soup, the gathering of friends and family, and maybe another apple cake or pie, but I have faith that we will be okay.

Now that it is November in Michigan and the skies may start being a bit cloudy, we can focus on the comfort foods that we crave. We may even have some leftovers in the freezer from all the cooking in October. I've written about the magic dessert freezer but I'm hoping there is also some frozen soup and challah left as well. Here are stories and recipes for comfort and for thanks-giving for all the blessings that we have.



Sweet Potato Salad with Mixed Baby Greens and Cashews

Vegan Africa by Marie Kacouchia

Serves 4.

Use your imagination or preferences to switch out the baby greens with the greens of your choice.

This is a fascinating cookbook that I found at the Detroit Institute of Art. They have a selection of cookbooks from several regions of the world that go with a special exhibit currently showing. There were several I thought about buying but controlled myself. Let me know if anyone goes there and buys the others.

- 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and diced or well washed and diced
- 2 tbs sesame oil
- 2 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp herbes de Provence
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ½ cup cashews
- ½ red onion
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 tbs pomegranate molasses
- 1 handful of mixed baby greens or the greens of your choice

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Mix 1 tbs of the oil, toss, and coat the diced sweet potatoes well. Add them to the baking sheet and bake for about 35 minutes or until they are golden brown. While the potatoes bake, heat a dry skillet over medium-high heat and lightly toast the cashews for 5 minutes. Set aside. Mix the onion, lemon juice, pomegranate molasses and the remaining 1 tbs sesame oil together in a small bowl. Add salt and pepper as needed. Place the greens in a larger bowl and add the dressing and toss. Plate the greens and add the roasted potatoes and top with the cashews.

Bobotie, a South African Casserole

Vegan Africa by Marie Kacouchia

Serves 4 but easily doubled.

Here's another interesting comfort dish that originally came from Indonesia and was brought to South Africa in the 17th century. It is generally served over rice.

- Vegetable oil
- 1½ cups green lentils
- 2 onions, minced
- 3 carrots, chopped
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped
- 2 apples, grated
- 1 cup raisins
- 3 tbs apricot jam
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tbs soy sauce
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1½ tsp black pepper
- ½ tsp ground cloves
- ½ tsp paprika
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon
- Salt
- 2 slices whole wheat bread
- ¾ cup plant milk

Sauce

- ¾ cup chickpea flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp turmeric
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 cup plant milk
- 2 bay leaves

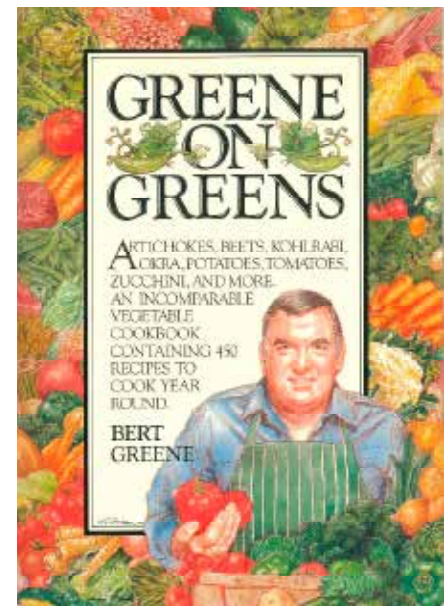
Preheat oven to 350 degrees and grease a baking dish with the oil. Cook the lentils in a pot with 4 cups of water. Bring to a boil and then lower the temperature to a low simmer. Cook until tender but not mushy, about 18–20 minutes. Drain and set aside to cool, then mash them but leave a slightly rough texture. Heat a thin layer of oil in a frying pan over medium heat. Add the onions and cook for about 5 minutes. Mix the carrots and walnuts together in a small bowl and then add them to the pan and stir to combine. Cook until the mixture has softened, about another 5 minutes. Next, add the spices, apples, raisins, jam, garlic, soy sauce, lemon zest and juice, and salt to taste, and reduce the heat to low. Cook this mixture until the liquid evaporates, about another 5 minutes. Soak the bread in the milk. When the slices are soft, use a fork to transfer them to the pan and stir gently until the bread is incorporated into the mixture. Transfer to the baking dish and smooth the surface. Make the sauce by mixing the flour, baking powder, turmeric, and salt in a small bowl and then slowly stir in the milk. Pour it over the lentil mixture, add the bay leaves and bake in the oven for 20–30 minutes until golden brown. You can add some bread crumbs over the top of the sauce for a crunchy texture.

Recipes from The Jewish Holiday Table

By Naama Shefi and the Jewish Food Society

This is a new cookbook filled with recipes and the stories behind them. The society launched as a nonprofit in New York City in 2017. The goal is to preserve and celebrate as many special family recipes and memories that they can by engaging in conversations with the people who maintain these traditions. These conversations are in person, in the kitchens, over the phone, WhatsApp, or any other ways they can get these stories. Some of the recipes are from the ancestors who came from Eastern Europe and some from India, Morocco, Baghdad, Yemen, and more. Some recipes are found in the cookbooks of the Jews of these countries but, for me, it is the stories that bring this food and these traditions alive.

Pan d'Espanya, Orange Chiffon Cake



Makes 1 10-inch

This cake is a tradition for Stella Hana Cohen who shared the recipe with the Jewish Food Society. Her ancestors came from Spain and were expelled from Spain in 1492. Then they moved to the island of Rhode. Her family continued to speak Ladino and to keep other customs as well as recipes. In the 20th century the family moved to southern and central Africa and continued to keep these traditions. She writes, "We've been making these dishes in exile for five hundred years with the same recipes and love as our ancestors." She has also written a cookbook with the title *Stella's Sephardic Table: Jewish Recipes from the Island of Rhode*. This cake was often made for break-the-fast on Yom Kippur but also used for celebration on Purim or other lifecycle events. It is wonderful for any occasion or friends coming for dinner.

- 2 cups cake flour, sifted
- 2 heaping tsp baking flour
- ⅛ tsp kosher salt (a pinch)
- 8 large eggs
- 1 cup super fine sugar or baker's sugar
- ½ cup vegetable or sunflower oil
- 2 tsp grated orange zest
- ¾ cup fresh orange juice
- 1 tsp orange blossom water
- ¾ tsp cream of tartar (optional)
- Confectioners' sugar for dusting (optional)
- Use a 10-inch tube pan or angel cake pan

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Put the cake flour, baking powder, and salt in a medium bowl and whisk to blend. Set aside. Separate the eggs, putting 6 of the yolks in the bowl of a stand mixer or use a large bowl and a hand mixer. Reserve the 2 remaining yolks for another use or discard them. Put all 8 egg whites into a small bowl or another large bowl if you will be using a hand mixer, and cover with plastic wrap, set aside at room temperature. Add the superfine sugar to the egg yolks and beat at high speed until they are pale and creamy, about 2 minutes. Turn the mixer to low and beat in the oil, orange zest, orange juice, and orange blossom water. With the mixer on low speed, add the flour mixture and beat until the batter is combined. You may need to scrape down the bowl. Set aside. Beat the egg whites until soft peaks form and add the cream of tartar if using it. Then continue beating until the peaks are firm, but do not overbeat. With a rubber spatula or metal spoon, scoop up about ⅓ of the egg whites and gently fold them into the batter. Continue to add them ⅓ at a time until they are just combined and there are no white streaks. Pour the batter into the ungreased tube pan and smooth the surface with a spoon. Bake until the cake is firm to the touch and a skewer or toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, about 40–50 minutes. Immediately invert the cake onto a wire rack and let cool completely, about 1½ hours. Gently ease the cake out of the pan and the center tube and flip it back upright. You can lightly sprinkle the top with confectioners' sugar.

Mina de Espinaca, Matzah and Spinach Pie

Serves 6–8

This recipe comes from Alexandra Zohn and was passed down in her family from her great-grandmother, Rosa. Rosa was born in Izmir, Turkey. Eventually, the family moved to Mexico, and Alexandra now lives in New York City. I've seen recipes for a matzah spinach pie in several cookbooks, but this is slightly different and can, and should, be used for any time.

- 2 russet or Yukon Gold potatoes (about 1½ pounds), peeled and halved if large
- Kosher salt
- 1½ cups shredded parmesan cheese
- 8 oz cream cheese, at room temperature
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 pound baby spinach, finely chopped
- 2 tbs extra-virgin olive oil
- 4–5 sheets of matzah

Boil the potatoes until they can easily be pierced with a knife, about 20–25 minutes. Drain and let cool enough to handle. Place them in a large bowl and mash them until smooth, no chunks. Add 1½ tsp salt, ¾ cup of the Parmesan cheese, the cream cheese, and the eggs, and mix well with a rubber spatula until the mixture is smooth and uniform. Taste to test for more salt. Place the

Continue on pg 19

"What the Sam Hill?"

By Candace Bulkley and Trina Fuller

Candace and Trina became friends in the Temple Beth Emeth adult b-mitzvah class that graduated in 2022. They will be honing their palates, visiting, and writing about a variety of independent, locally owned Washtenaw County restaurants, catering to a variety of dietary preferences.

Of course, when we headed out to dine at Sam Hill, we questioned the origin of the phrase "what the Sam Hill". It turns out there are several theories, but we like the one that says it came from a particular copper miner in the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan's UP who used so many colorful curse words that his name became a euphemism for your curse word of choice. In a tongue-in-cheek homage to this miner, Sam Hill's bar is clad in copper.

When we dined at Sam Hill, no swearing was necessary. We enjoyed a lovely dinner on the patio. It's located in the space previously occupied by Standard Bistro and Creekside Grill and the outdoor spaces are surprisingly bucolic given its location along Jackson Road. The Yard is a big space alongside Honey Creek that features a selection of lawn games, Adirondack chairs circling fire pits, and plenty of room for a game of corn hole. If you want to sit in Adirondack chairs and enjoy a drink while the kids run around, this is your spot. Leashed dogs are also welcome. The Yard has a separate abbreviated food and drink menu and orders are taken at a counter near the entrance.

We chose to dine in the main restaurant so we could access the full menu. Our four diners had a short debate about which appetizers to try and settled on the cauliflower bites and roasted garlic cheese dip. We had considered the tomato hand pies but decided to save them for next time. A woman from a neighboring table overheard us and came over to let us know that she had the tomato pies twice and they were delicious. We'll definitely have to go back and try them. The appetizers arrived quickly and we dug into the cauliflower bites. They fall into the category of "this doesn't taste like a vegetable!" Hot out of the fryer and tossed in a tangy buffalo/BBQ "barbalo" sauce, they were delicious — sweet and savory cauliflower! The roasted garlic cheese dip arrived on a plank with a generous serving of vegetable sticks including real peeled carrot sticks for dipping along with a few slices of toasted baguette. The best combination was found by spreading cheese on the toast and then layering the vegetables on top. We were all impressed that the portions were definitely big enough to generously share at a table of four. Just a couple of minutes after our appetizers were served, our dinners arrived. This was unfortunate as they were delicious and we were looking forward to a leisurely meal outdoors. If you'd like to linger longer with your appetizers, you might want to ask them to delay putting in your dinner order.

Moving on to our entrees, our diners stuck to items from the sandwich and salad sections of the menu. Our teenage taster ordered the smash burger and upgraded the included chips to hand-cut french fries. The tasty yet messy burger had to be finished with a fork and knife because the sauce and sauteed onions were on the bottom of the bun, which became soggy and fell apart. That being said, the meat was well seasoned and the toppings were generous. Another diner opted for the fried chicken sandwich, a breaded and basted chicken thigh, tossed in a sauce that was described as "spicy," but we didn't find that to be the case. Lack of spiciness aside, the sandwich arrived well prepared with a generous portion of their hand-cut french fries, which were piping hot and perfectly salted. On the other side of the table, our tasters enjoyed the Hot Brown sandwich and a Caesar salad with added salmon. The Hot Brown was a sight to behold when it was served. This Kentucky Derby classic arrived on a rimmed plate to contain all of the cheesy goodness. It was perfectly browned on top and looked delicious before it was even tasted. To the uninitiated, a Kentucky Hot Brown is an open-faced sandwich consisting of thick sliced toast with turkey, Mornay sauce (a classic bechamel sauce with the addition of gruyere and Parmesan cheeses), and tomatoes, that is broiled and served hot. The sandwich is filling and loaded with creaminess from the sauce and much-needed acid from the tomatoes. The balance of flavors in the sandwich is a delight when you eat it. Traditionally, bacon is included on a Hot Brown, but we chose to leave it out. This diet buster was worth every bite. The salmon Caesar salad was the most lackluster of our choices. Our taster noted that although the romaine lettuce was crispy and fresh, the dressing tasted bottled without the signature anchovy and garlic kick — we all know the dressing makes a Caesar salad. Additionally, the salmon

which was ordered medium rare arrived overcooked in the well-done zone.

Although the dessert menu was very tempting and featured a bourbon cream cake, tiramisu, white chocolate cheesecake, and fresh fruit bowl with agave lime syrup and a berry mascarpone cheese, it was getting late and time for a post-dinner walk. Next time!

Open just over a year, Sam Hill has had time to work out the kinks. Owned by the local Bar-Star Group, which also owns Monty's Public House, Lo-Fi, and Babs downtown, it is run by veterans of the industry who know what they are doing. Reservations are easily made online. We often comment on a restaurant's notations of items for special diets. In the case of Sam Hill, not only are there clear notations for gluten free, vegan, and vegetarian options on the menu, but also there is an entire page on the website listing every item on the menu, potentially problematic ingredients, and whether or not it can be prepared without certain ingredients. Gold star!

Sam Hill samhilla2.com 5827 Jackson Rd., Ann Arbor ■

Kosher Cuisine continued from pg 18

chopped spinach in another bowl and add ½ cup of the Parmesan and 1 tsp salt. Mix until the cheese and salt are evenly distributed. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 10-inch springform pan with 1 tsp of the olive oil. Soak the sheets of matzah one at a time in a bowl with about an inch of water. You want them to be flexible but firm enough to hold their shape. It may take 30 seconds or a minute or two. Place each matzah on a plate lined with paper towel to absorb excess moisture. Line the bottom of the springform pan with a matzah, then fill in the gaps around the edges with pieces of matzah torn to fit the space. Spread half the spinach/Parmesan mixture over the matzah in an even layer. Continue to add one sheet of matzah and more of the spinach/Parmesan one layer at a time. Press down gently on each layer so that there is room. Finish with a layer of matzah. Spread the potato mixture evenly over the matzah layer. You can use the back of a spoon to make swirls in the surface of the potatoes, so they brown attractively. Sprinkle the remaining Parmesan on top of the potato layer and drizzle the remaining olive oil on top. Bake for about 40–50 minutes and remove from the oven. Let cool for about 5 minutes. Run the tip of a sharp knife around the edges of the mina to release it from the pan. Remove the sides of the springform, transfer the mina to a serving plate and cut into wedges. Serve hot.

Pumpkin Flan

Greene on Greens by Bert Greene

Serves 8

Of course, there is a story to this recipe. My sister-in-law and brother were with us for Rosh Hashanah lunch and brought the flan as a savory dish. We forgot and had it for dessert and then I ate it for breakfast. There was still enough for dessert for dinner on Friday night. When I say it was delicious, I really mean it. So, I asked Chris, my sister-in-law, for the recipe. It came from the cookbook cited above and was my brother's. He brought the cookbook to the marriage. Chris made the recipe with a small pumpkin, like the sugar pumpkins used to make pumpkin pie. I think you could make it with the canned pumpkin puree as well but try it with a fresh squash.

1 medium acorn squash
½ cup sugar
2 tbs unsalted butter, melted
¼ tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp ground ginger
¼ tsp nutmeg
⅛ tsp ground cloves
⅛ tsp crushed dried hot red pepper (obviously, I don't use this)
½ tsp. salt
1½ cups milk
1 cup heavy or whipping cream (this makes it delicious)
2 eggs and 3 egg yolks
1 tbs brandy

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Cut the squash in half lengthwise and scoop out the seeds. Place the squash, cut sides down, on a lightly buttered baking sheet or on parchment paper. Bake in the oven until the squash is very tender, about 45 minutes. Cool, then scoop out the pulp. Use a 1-quart souffle dish or large pie plate and warm in the oven for about 5 or 6 minutes. Meanwhile beat the sugar and cinnamon in a small saucepan over high heat until the sugar starts to melt. Continue to cook, stirring constantly, until the sugar has melted, and caramel turns a deep golden color. Remove the souffle dish from the oven and carefully pour the caramel into the dish so that it coats the bottom and the sides. Invert the dish on a buttered sheet of foil and let stand. This prevents the dripping from hardening on a work surface. Use a blender or a food processor and add the squash pulp, the melted butter, ginger, nutmeg, cloves, and salt, and the red pepper if you are using it. Process until smooth. Meanwhile, combine the milk and cream in a saucepan and place over medium-low heat until hot. Do not let it boil! Beat the eggs and the extra egg yolks in a large bowl. Beat in the pureed squash mixture. Slowly stir in the hot milk and cream and add the brandy. Pour the custard into the prepared souffle dish and place in a roasting pan. Pour boiling water into the baking pan (not the souffle or pie pan) to come halfway up the side of the dish. Bake until a knife inserted in the center coms out clean, about 1 hour. Remove the dish from the pan and let it stand 10 minutes. Run a sharp knife around the edge of the dish and very carefully invert it onto a shallow serving platter. Serve it warm or well chilled. ■

Federation community engagement fund grants continued from pg 9

diaspora Jews and Israel. In addition to talks at Temple Beth Emeth and Beth Israel Congregation, he will meet with local teens and Jewish communal professionals, as well as have dinner with student leaders from the University of Michigan.

"Committee members appreciated that the scholar-in-residence weekend would reach a broad cross-section of the Ann Arbor Jewish community, including people from a variety of age cohorts and institutional and denominational affiliations," said Eileen Freed, CEO of the Jewish Federation. "We know from the Community Study results released in April 2024 that our community would benefit from increased opportunities for Jewish teens to come together for meaningful programs. We also learned from the study that there are people in the community who feel uncomfortable sharing their views on Israel. With these important data points in mind, Alex's sessions will provide context, nuance, and tools to have open and honest conversations about Israel."

Community Engagement Fund grants are made possible by allocations from the Jewish Federation's Annual Community Campaign. The next round of Community Engagement Fund grants will be awarded in spring 2025. For more information or to inquire, contact Eileen Freed at eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org or (734) 773-3537. ■

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On behalf of our clients, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our growing community of generous and dedicated supporters. Your unwavering commitment to our mission, whether as volunteers, donors, or friends of JFS, is truly inspiring. Thank you for standing with us and making a lasting impact.

JFS Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

First annual KlezMitten festival

KlezMitten, Michigan's inaugural Klezmer festival, took place on Sunday, September 15, at the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit.

Elena Luchina (in blue) and others dance to the music of Klezmephonic.

Dancing to the music of Heartland Klezmorim: L–R Chris Hamilton (bass), Sue Garber (violin), Will Metz (sax), Ben Godoshian (perc.) hidden, Andy Callis (accordion), David Klein (trumpet)

The band "Schmaltz" — L–R: Christopher Gerace, Ryan Schildcrout, Michael Gerace, Jack Harris, Jacob Warren, Seulah Noh.

The assembled gathered at KlezMitten and the backs of Klezundheit (from left to right), Alan Posner (soprano saxophone), Michelle Posner (flute), Dave Reed (violin). Not pictured members of Klezundheit Matt Adler (tuba), Glen Gardiner (bass) and Howard Collens (trombone).

Combined bands after performing "Odessa Bulgar" at the end of the KlezMitten Festival.

Obituaries

The WJN prints obituaries, memories, and eulogies free of charge for family members of Washtenaw Jewish community members as a service to the community and to honor the lives of those who have passed away. When local congregations send condolence notices to the WJN, the editor searches for obituaries online. Also, community members are invited to send obituaries to the editor.

Flora Jewell (Kahn) Brenner, a devoted wife, mother, and cherished member of the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, community, passed away peacefully on September 5, at the age of 100. Her presence, poise, intelligence, and grace brightened the world for over a century, and she will be greatly missed by all.

Born on May 25, 1924, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Flora was the beloved daughter of Albert and Mary Kahn. Growing up during the Great Depression, Flora experienced the hardships of losing her home at a young age. Despite these challenges, she graduated from Olney High School in Philadelphia in 1942 and pursued her passion for nursing at Temple University and as part of the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps at Philadelphia General Hospital, where she received her RN degree in 1948. It was there that she met her future husband and the great love of her life, Louis O. Brenner, M.D.

Flora and Louis were married on July 4, 1948, and their journey together took them from coast to coast; from Los Angeles, California, in 1949 to Washington, D.C., in 1950 for Louis's military service. In 1954, they settled in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where they raised their family and built a life filled with love, faith, joy, and community.

In her professional life, Flora was not only a dedicated homemaker but also played a crucial role in managing her husband's medical practice as his office nurse and office manager until his retirement in 2000. Her organizational skills and warm personality helped establish a wide network of lifelong relationships within the Harrisburg community. Flora was known as a trustworthy confidant, guided by not just her medical training but her own ethics and belief in maintaining the dignity of others. Based upon her experiences working in a public hospital and elsewhere, wherever Flora encountered injustice, she fought for a better world, especially when supporting a woman's right to choose.

Flora shared a deep love of classical music with her husband, particularly opera, and they enjoyed traveling the world together. She was an enthusiastic bridge player, often playing with Louis and their wide circle of friends. Flora also enjoyed golf, skiing, tennis, and gardening (she always grew magnificent flowers), and she participated in many civic activities in Harrisburg.

Flora spent most of her life as a member and supporter of Beth El Temple in Harrisburg, and will be laid to rest at Beth El Cemetery. She is survived by her loving husband, Louis Brenner, and their four children: Dean Brenner, a retired physician and scientist in Michigan; Karen Brenner (Larry Kaplan), Robin Brenner (Steven Marcuse) in California; and Joyce Brenner, a lawyer in Florida. She is also survived by her brother, Martin Kahn, from Miami, Florida, seven grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren, to whom she will forever be affectionately known as "Granny Flo."

Flora's legacy is one of love, dedication, and resilience. Whether she was skiing, at dinner with friends, enjoying Tanglewood, experiencing the world, or playing with family, Flora always did it with a smile, a laugh, and a mischievous twinkle in her eye. She was never one to miss a good story — and she relished each and every moment with her family, friends, and community. Clever, caring, and with great humor, Flora was a true force of nature and embodied all these qualities until the end. She will be remembered for the myriad of ways she changed and improved the lives of those around her. Flora lived a full life of love, laughter, and with an indomitable spirit — leaving behind stories and a legacy that will continue to echo through generations. Like her middle name, Flora was indeed a jewel.

Contributions may be made to the Harrisburg Symphony, Beth El Temple, or Planned Parenthood. Correspondence may be sent to Karen Brenner, PO Box 9109, Newport Beach, CA 92658.

Edward Ivan Ball, 72, died Thursday, October 3, at the VA Medical Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, after a battle with liver and kidney disease. Ed was born on August 28, 1952, to Norma (nee Wood) Ball and Ivan J. Ball in Quantico, Virginia, where his father was stationed as a serviceman in the Marine Corps. Norma and Ivan moved back to Iowa City, Iowa, when Ed was a baby so that they could be closer to their families. He attended public schools in Iowa City, graduating from West High School in 1971. After high school, Ed enlisted and served eight years in the U.S. Navy. Achieving the rank of Petty Officer First Class, Ed ran the jet engine test cell on the flagship aircraft carrier USS Nimitz. He received an honorable discharge and later became a professional butcher, a career he enjoyed for many years until retirement. Ed loved the outdoors. While he always especially enjoyed hunting and fishing, solely being in nature was a pleasure to Ed. He played harmonica and Native flute, bringing beautiful music to his family's vacation campfires in northern Michigan over the years. He was also a skilled scrimshaw artist. Ed was preceded in death by both of his parents. He is survived by his brothers, Richard and David, and sister-in-law Deborah Loewenberg Ball; niece Sarah Ball Hakala; nephews Joshua and Jacob Ball; grand-nephew and -nieces Owen, Emme, and Lucy Hakala; aunts Virginia (nee Bross) and Mary Ann (nee Waldschmidt); uncles William and James; and many cousins. Donations may be made in Ed's memory to Huron-Clinton MetroParks or to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Michigan State Parks to invest in preserving and improving the beautiful public outdoor spaces that Ed loved so much. A memorial service will be held later this fall in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Arrangements were entrusted to Cole Funeral Chapel in Chelsea, Michigan.

Simchas and Sorrows

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends condolences to the families of:

Nathan Churchill, brother of Martha Churchill. September 11.

Ida Aibinder, mother of William Aibinder (Rabbi Chelsea Feuchs), and grandmother of Leyna. September 26.

Edward Ball, the brother of Richard Ball and brother-in-law of Deborah Ball; uncle of Sarah Hakala, Joshua and Jacob Ball; and great uncle of Owen, Emme, and Lucy Hakala. October 3.

Marilyn Rotenberg, the mother of Steven Rotenberg and grandmother of Charlotte and Mara Rotenberg. October 5.

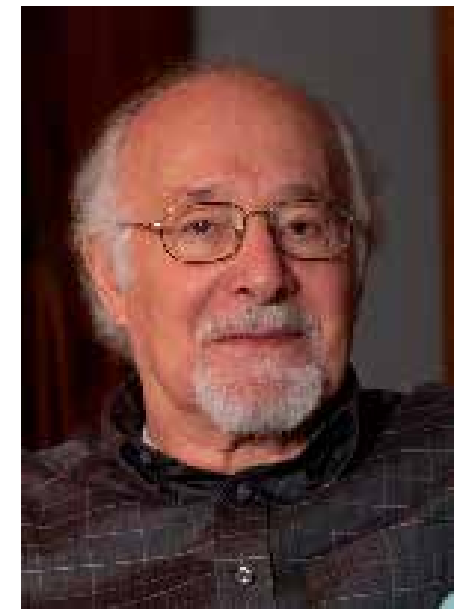
Claire Kirpich, the mother of Ava Slemrod. September 8.

Flora Brenner, mother of Dean Brenner. September 5.

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends mazel tovs to:

Grandparents Howie and Lisa Saulles on the birth of their granddaughter, Miriam Rose Zolden, born June 17, to parents Ariel and Evan Zoldan and brothers Charlie and Teddy.

Dina Shtull and Steve Leber on the engagement of their daughter, Leor Shtull-Leber, to Dan Benenson. ■



Ronald H. Aaron died peacefully at age 95 on October 20 surrounded by his loving family. Ron was born in Worcester, Massachusetts to Barnet and Gertrude Aaron. Since his father owned an upholstering business, Ron knew from an early age that he wanted to become an Interior Designer. He studied at Vesper George School of Art in Boston, The New York School of Interior Design and at Pratt Institute (while he was in the service).

Ron enlisted in the US Air Force at the beginning of the Korean war and served for four years. In 1953, he married the love of his life, Marianne Adler. After leaving the service, he designed offices in New York City for Itkin, Bros. In 1959 they decided that they wanted the family to live in a smaller community, so Ron accepted a job in Hartford, Connecticut. He was working for G. Fox department store, when he first designed restaurants as well as prestigious offices for the Governor Ella Grasso and Senator Abe Ribicoff of Connecticut. He then became a partner for a design/build company — Kohn Display and Woodworking. After the death of the owner, at age 35, he relocated to the Boston area where he continued to design stores and restaurants. In 1992 he moved to Cleveland, Ohio to be near grandchildren. There he designed kitchens. After moving to Ann Arbor, he did a few jobs freelancing and continued doing designs on the computer just for fun. Above all, Ron loved his family and was extremely proud of the accomplishments of his sons and he adored his 6 grandchildren. Ron loved cars, sailboats and travel. He was an avid reader and loved classical music. Wherever he lived, he participated in temple life whether it was Brotherhood or ushering and before the pandemic, rarely missed an Erev Shabbat service.

Ron is survived by his wife, Marianne of 71 years, sons: David (Marjorie Corman); Richard (Yuni Rorie), Jonathan (Michelle Azar), 6 grandchildren, Joshua (Elena Barschatzki), Noah, Elisha, Sofie, Adina and Sela Aaron, nieces Suzanne and Betsy Aaron, Deborah and Naomi Adler (Brian Beal) nephew, Andrew Aaron; brother in law, Samuel Adler (Emily Freeman Brown), Sister-in-law, Ann Stein (widow of brother, Hugh Aaron).

Donations in his memory may be made to Temple Beth Emeth, Ann Arbor, HIAS or a charity of your choice. ■

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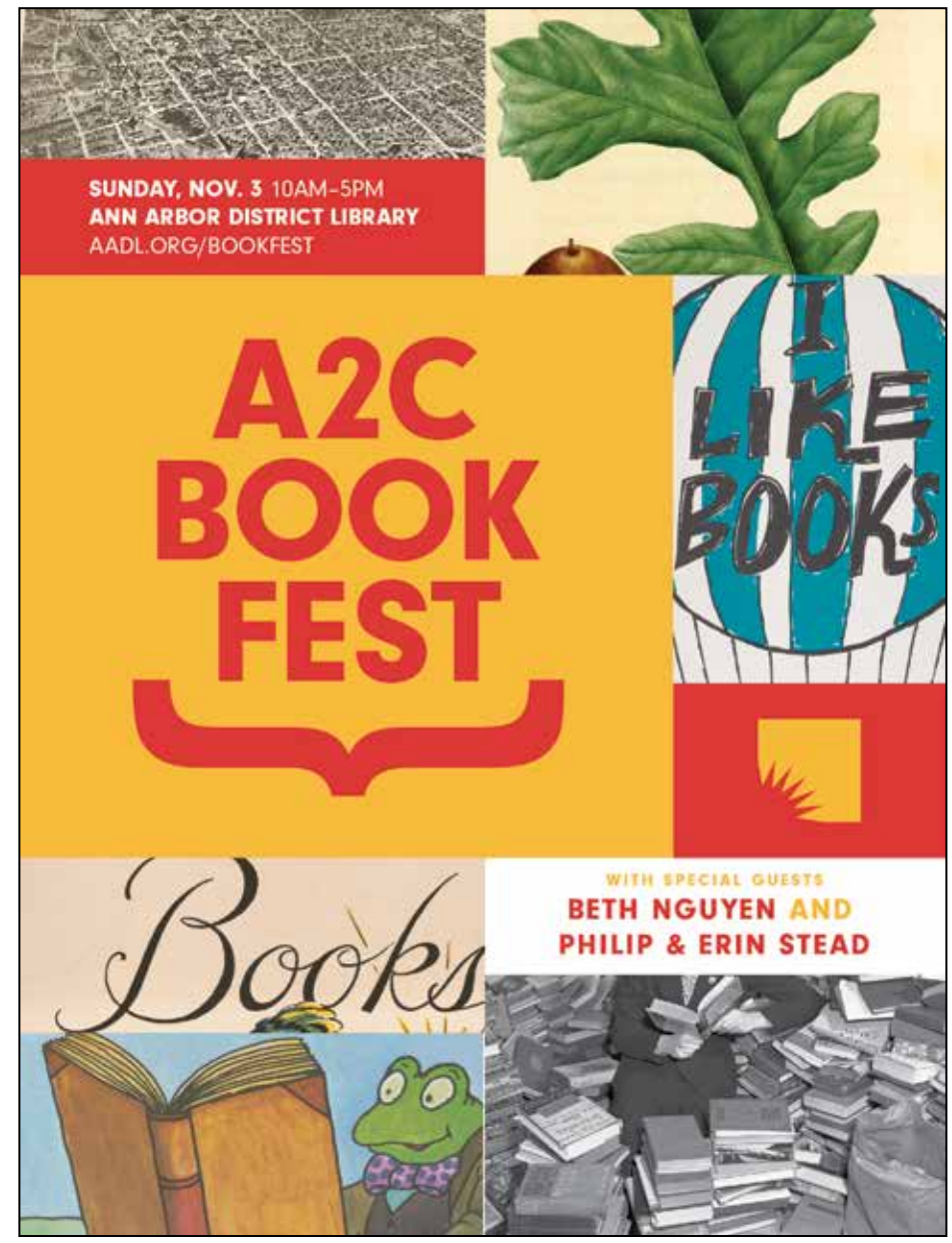

DINNER with the Chef

We invite you to join us for Dinner with the Chef, featuring owner and chef of Frita Batidos, Chef Eve Aranoff, at the brand new Nourish Kitchen and Shalom Pantry! Guests receive an intimate and unforgettable culinary experience while learning the story of how the Nourish Kitchen and Shalom Pantry are feeding those in need in Washtenaw County and beyond.

Come hear, taste, and see for yourself - alongside fellow guests - how you can partner with us to make a real difference in YOUR community.

Featuring

Chef Eve Aronoff
of Frita Batidos

Monday, December 9, 2024
6:30 p.m.

JFS Ann Arbor
Nourish Kitchen and Shalom Pantry
2245 S State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Tickets: $150/per person

*Includes 3 course meal, wine pairings
Limited Seating Available

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Israel Education Weekend with Visiting Scholar

Alex Sinclair

Author of
- **Perfect Enemy**
- **Loving the Real Israel: An Educational Agenda for Liberal Zionism**

Schedule of Events

All events are free and open to the public

Friday, November 8, 7:30pm, Temple Beth Emeth

Engaging with Israel in the Era of Smotrich and Ben-Gvir: A guide for the Perplexed, the Despairing, and the Petrified

7:30pm Service + Dvar Tora by Alex

8:45pm Oneg + Discussion

Saturday, November 9, 9:30am, Beth Israel Congregation

Discussing the generation gap in opinions toward Israel

9:30pm Service

10:30pm Dvar Tora by Alex

12:30pm After Kiddush Talk

Sunday, November 10, 1:00-3:00pm- AADL Downtown Library, 3rd floor "Free Space"

Teen led discussion about Israel with Alex

See Alex at the
Detroit Jewish Book Fair
November 10, 7:00pm
"The J" of Metro Detroit

Hosted by the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor in partnership with Beth Israel Congregation, Temple Beth Emeth, and Hillel at UM.

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